

Approximately, one month ago, I stated that I was very disappointed that our District Attorney's Office was drawn into the politics of the Walker County Sheriff's race. That was when a contempt petition was filed against me and my office when I had already provided the information I was alleged to have been withholding that was subject to a subpoena. That petition was dismissed 28 minutes after I filed my response.

Today, the business of the Walker County Sheriff Department was again interrupted by the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office sought out and obtained an Indictment against me and my Chief Deputy.

I have been embattled with the Walker County Commission and the Walker County Civil Service Board over who I can hire and who I can fire. I recently filed a lawsuit against both entities to reclaim the ability to do my own hiring and firing. Surprisingly, today's Indictment is against me for who has been working as a School Resource Officers at several of our County Schools. This is not the result of there being complaints for the behavior of any School Resource Officer. In fact, one of the men I am charged with working as a School Resource Officer received special recognition from the Walker County Board of Education for his efforts in stopping what had the potential of being a very bad situation.

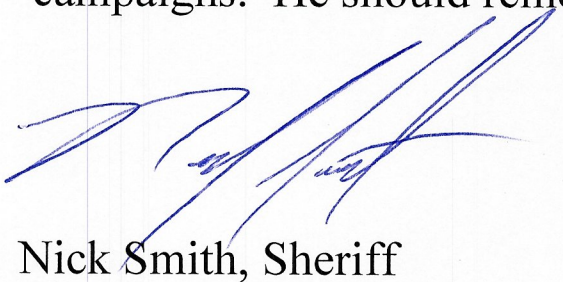
I have been charged with non-APOSTE certified personnel operating vehicles and working in certain capacities while wearing Sheriff Department Uniforms. There can be no doubt



that the District Attorney is now charging me to help his friend's campaign for Sheriff. The District Attorney was made aware of employees of JC Poe working people in similar capacities at the Jasper Police Department. Charges have not been pursued against him by the District Attorney. Instead, he was called and told that he needed to make some changes which he did on the very day I sent a message to the District Attorney. Vehicles of the Jasper Police Department were restriped to meet APOSTE compliances. If I was doing something wrong, why was I not afforded the same telephone call?

The charges against me are administrative in nature and do not carry any jail time. However, I take these charges very seriously. This lawfare should stop. Criminal charges should not be used to try to influence national elections and criminal charges should not be used to try to influence the local Sheriff's race. I intend to vigorously defend these charges.

I did not play a role in either of the District Attorney's campaigns. He should remove himself from mine.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Smith', is written over the printed name below.

Nick Smith, Sheriff