



Jackson County

ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER

Michael R. Overton, Administrator/Controller

Debra Kubitskey, Assistant Administrator

February 13, 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT

Jackson County had absolutely no knowledge whatsoever of the events alleged in the Lawsuit about the Sheriff's Office until January 17, 2018, at which point the County immediately referred the matter for an independent criminal investigation to the Attorney General and the Michigan State Police. As far as the County knows, the criminal investigation is not yet complete. Any questions regarding the criminal investigation should be directed to the Michigan State Police, Detective 1st Lieutenant Tom DeClercq.

The County vehemently denies any wrongdoing associated with the events alleged in the Lawsuit about the Sheriff's Office. The allegations, if true, are absolutely abhorrent and represent conduct that is repugnant to Jackson County's commitment as clearly set out in its many employment Policies and Practices. Jackson County through its Policies has publicly and systematically condemned the contemptible speech and conduct alleged in the Lawsuit about the Sheriff.

Jackson County, like the public, is as shocked as anyone by these stunning allegations. By Michigan law and Constitution, the Sheriff has sole authority over his own conduct and the conduct of his Command Staff and his Deputies. The County is responsible to fund the operations of a Sheriff's Office through its Annual Budget and has no legal source of authority to discipline the Sheriff or his staff.

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners
RESOLUTION 02-18.9**

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners is committed to the spirit and the letter of all civil rights laws, both state and federal, and has adopted Jackson County Policies that ensure that the civil rights of all citizens and employees of the County are protected; and,

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners has annually through its Budgets invested substantial resources in the training, dissemination and education of its policies with the goal of 100% compliance and participation by all Officials and employees of the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners has a "Zero Tolerance" Policy regarding conduct which violates or jeopardizes the civil rights of the citizens and employees of Jackson County; and,

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners has learned that Sheriff Rand has engaged in conduct which the Board of Commissioners deems to be an abuse of the Office of County Sheriff and this conduct has jeopardized and diminished the public's confidence in Sheriff Rand; and,

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners does not possess legal authority over the elected office of Sheriff and does not have the ability to unilaterally remove the Sheriff from office.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners hereby officially condemns, in the strongest way possible, the egregious conduct engaged in by the Sheriff and unanimously calls upon Sheriff Steve Rand to restore confidence and integrity in our Sheriff's Department by placing the interests of the citizens of Jackson County above all else and voluntarily resign from the Office of Sheriff, effective immediately; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that the Board Chair is directed to send a letter on behalf of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to request that the Governor of the State of Michigan remove Sheriff Rand from the Office of Sheriff.

James E. Shotwell, Jr, Chairperson
Jackson County Board of Commissioners
February 20, 2018

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF JACKSON)

I, Amanda Kirkpatrick, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Jackson, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Jackson, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on February 20, 2018 at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout and that an original thereof is on file in the records of the County. I further certify that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Amanda Kirkpatrick, County Clerk

Date: _____