

From: Hearon, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Hudelson, Holly (Orange - Prosecutor) <prosecutor59@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Tom Kleinhelter

Holly,

I have been a police officer for approximately 37 years with 30 years as a detective. I worked numerous cases and understand we each have a role. A police officer 's job is to investigate criminal allegations- interview witnesses, gather evidence, write search warrants, arrest criminals, and present their findings to the prosecutors. Prosecutors review the evidence gathered by the police and decide whether to file charges and represent the state in court to pursue a conviction. Basically, police investigate, and prosecutors prosecute. Throughout my career I present several cases I thought warranted charges, but the prosecutor declined to file. This doesn't upset me, and I expect it to happen and remind myself that even though prosecutors and police are not part of the same team, we are almost always on the same side, which is the right side.

My relationship with the various prosecutors is simple too important to hold a grudge or Monday morning quarterback, getting the bad guys is the goal, and a collaborative effort is needed. It is incumbent upon prosecutors and police to develop positive relationships. If the police trust the prosecutor and believe they are committed to fighting crime, they will accept decisions and result they don't agree with.

I found prosecutors and police are always "too busy". There is never enough time in the day. Often, we dread having difficult conversations, however this is no excuse to keep from contacting each other. Most officers are interested in the outcome of their cases. They care about their communities and have a difficult and dangerous job.

In the Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter case, my investigation showed Kleinhelter, used taxpayers' funds to go on trips with his wife, he attempted to hide the purchases of alcohol, food, and entertainment by only submitting partial receipts, and cancelled their planned trip to Dubia pocketing the money until being forced to pay it back after repeatedly lying or omitting details. When caught, he created two backdated special deputy documents making his wife a special deputy in an attempt to avoid prosecution and lied that the Dubois County Prosecutor and an outside side attorney helped him create the documents.

What I am having difficulty with is you contacting the original assigned case officer, Troy Stanton, who only interviewed a couple of witnesses, copied and pasted portions of the State Board of Accounts report into his report and closed his investigation after failing to obtain receipts, airline records, credit card records, banks records, and computer, and cell phone data. Troy was struggling with the investigation and health issues, and I was assigned to assist him. Troy did not do an adequate job and was removed from the case. Since I was familiar with the

investigation I was assigned as the lead investigator. Troy was ignorant of all the facts from October onward.

I would like to have a face-to-face meeting to talk about the above so we can reach common ground. Unfair second-guessing on both sides can quickly erode each other's credibility and sour future relationships.

Sincerely,
Jeff

Jeffrey C. Hearon, Lieutenant
Area V Investigative Commander
Field Investigations

Indiana State Police, District 52
8620 East 21st Street
Indianapolis, IN. 46219
jhearon@isp.IN.gov
317-694-7693 cell
317-