

November 7, 2017

To: Rick Yarborough

From: Sheriff Scott Jenkins

Re: Media Inquiry

Please note that the responses correspond with the questions posed in the order presented.

1. I am an independent Constitutional Officer therefore there is not an entity that approves my travel arrangements for extraditions.

2. I do not know the source of your information regarding Sheriff participation in extraditions but I am aware of Sheriffs in other Virginia jurisdictions that execute out of state extraditions. In the Culpeper Office previous Sheriffs have executed extraditions. During the time I have been Sheriff my office has executed 105 extraditions and of that number I participated in five. As a detective in the past I have been all over the country on extradition transport. I gained valuable insights into the operations of other law enforcement agencies during those transport operations. The same is true for the transports you have asked about. I went in large part to see how other larger jurisdictions operated. I also note that during the end of 2015 the office was involved in a multiday complex jury trial that removed a large number of personnel from their regular duties. In addition we were shorthanded for road deputies and I did not want to pull any from their responsibilities in order to staff an extradition transport.

3. Contrary to what you have been told going out of state to transport prisoners, often at great personal risk, is not a perk -- as you have termed it. Deputies are assigned extradition duty according to their abilities and the specific factors of the extradition. For example a female transport will necessitate the assignment of a female deputy. All transports require at least two deputies to accompany each prisoner. It is not unusual for someone new--as you term it--to be assigned transport duty. At the time Vanessa Blackstock went on the two transports she was an experienced certified deputy hired from another Virginia sheriff's office. She was new to the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office but not to the profession. I hope you have not targeted Deputy Blackstock because of her gender. Many deputies are female and are fully capable of performing their duties as well as male deputies.

4. No I did not seek prior approval for my travel arrangements. In the past the Supreme Court has reimbursed first class airfare for me. Anyone who has flown knows the size of airline seats. I am a big man. I need a big seat. I would point out that many times the costs of extradition are paid by the prisoner through court costs. The Supreme Court fronts the money but in many instances it is the prisoner who is ultimately responsible for extradition costs. It is misleading to suggest otherwise.

5. Regarding the length of time to perform the extradition referenced by your inquiry my reaction is twofold. Firstly, I question whether the Office of the Secretary of the Supreme Court has an official opinion that two days is the "average" length of an extradition. Secondly, if in fact this is the official

opinion of the Secretary of the Supreme Court then I question the methodology used to calculate the “average” length of an extradition transport. Both extraditions in question were thousands of miles away from Culpeper. I doubt the “average” would apply to that distance. An extradition to either location, in the best of circumstances would require a 16-hour work day. When one adds the uncertainty of prisoner release times at the out of state institution, driving, car return and the other vagaries of travel three or four days is not out of line as your question might suggest. While I am salaried, deputies are not. On long trips I allow deputies to take time to rest between pickup and return. This is to minimize overtime pay and to ensure that the deputies are alert and able to safely transport the prisoner.

6. You ask about the turnover rate at the Culpeper County Sheriff’s Office. I find it is low compared to past administrations in Culpeper and to other jurisdictions around the Commonwealth. When I took office thirty-some deputies were not appointed in my administration. Of the sixty-some deputies who have left the office over the past six years there are a variety of reasons for this to include but not limited to: criminal activity, gross violations of ethical requirements or policies, retirements, persons leaving to join other agencies for better pay or to pursue other careers. Starting salaries are low and it is hard to compete with the private sector, federal positions and jurisdictions like Prince William County or Fairfax County. I do not believe the citizens of Culpeper County have any reason for concern regarding turnover.

7. I question the motivation of those individuals who you have interviewed. The office of Sheriff in Virginia is an elected position and sadly these individuals are politically motivated and seek to use you to further their agenda. My deputies are not demoralized and the office is hardly dysfunctional or hostile. In fact the office has a good reputation amongst law enforcement personnel in the area. I know this because each year, including this year, we receive multiple applications from the Town of Culpeper Police Department, the Manassas Police Department, the Virginia State Police, Fairfax County, Prince William County and all surrounding jurisdictions. I have already hired from each of these jurisdictions and will probably do so in the future. Many have taken a pay cut to join our team. If my office were hostile or dysfunctional it would be well known and I doubt I would have the quality of applicants from these jurisdictions.

Finally, let me conclude by asking you to consider the motivations of your sources. To the extent you are relying on disgruntled ex-employees, I suggest they hardly constitute a representative sample of the office. I had to clean house when I first took office and that caused ill will among those that had to leave. I could not look the other way when I knew some should not be in law enforcement. Now we have a good team working together to protect Culpeper. I am proud of them and of the work they do.

I might add here that perhaps you do not understand that Culpeper is a small Sheriff’s Office. You focused on the extraditions in which I participated which would seem to suggest there is something unusual about it. In fact I participate in all aspects of the office. I do not sit behind a desk as I prefer to be out and about. I participate in patrols. I respond to calls. In fact several months ago I responded to a call and apprehended two robbery suspects in the town. The office is small enough to allow for an active Sheriff who is not tied down by administrative duties.

Extradition is just another aspect of the office in which I participate. The fact that I was able to learn more about the functionality of other law enforcement agencies during those extraditions is an added benefit.