

Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

4/21/2011

R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police



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Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Statement from Chief Sean Baldwin Regarding Article Posted in Fort Pierce Newspaper

On Wednesday April 20, 2011 the Fort Pierce Tribune posted a story in their online edition of the TCPalm.com about an incident involving City Manager David Recor and Community Activist Rick Reed at the Fort Pierce City Commission Meeting on Monday April 18, 2011. There were some inaccuracies in the story and Chief Baldwin feels compelled to correct the record.

The article, written by Scripps Reporter Lamaur Stancil stated that Chief Baldwin “declined comment” about the incident. This is an inaccurate statement. Chief Baldwin, recognizing that this was an open criminal investigation directed Fort Pierce Police Department Public Information Officer Sergeant Dennis McWilliams to return a call that Mr. Stancil had placed seeking comment. Sergeant McWilliams told Mr. Stancil that because the sheriff’s office was conducting an investigation he would be unable to comment on the details of the allegation or the pending criminal investigation. Adam Neal, Breaking News Editor for Scripps has corrected the online edition to reflect this statement. We appreciate Scripps making this correction.

The news article also includes a quote from Mr. Reed stating that Chief Baldwin told Mr. Reed “You are not hurt. You need to forget about it.” Mr. Reed’s quote is an inaccurate representation of what actually happened. Chief Baldwin did not observe any illegal conduct by either Mr. Reed or Mr. Recor during this incident. Furthermore, he did not make any such statement to Mr. Reed.

Chief Baldwin would like to relay the following message to the community “Mr. Reed’s account of the incident, as reported in the Tribune, tends to indicate that I have failed to take action in response to a criminal act committed by a city official in my presence. This is simply not true. This matter has been properly referred to the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office, and I am fully cooperating in their investigation. I ask that our community wait until this investigation is complete, before drawing any misinformed conclusions or speculation about anyone’s conduct.”

It is inappropriate for Chief Baldwin to discuss this incident in any further detail until the Saint Lucie County Sheriff’s Office has completed their investigation. Once this is done, and as always, Chief Baldwin will be happy to discuss the incident with the media and community.

Dennis McWilliams
Public Information Officer

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