

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF ATKINS PRESS RELEASE IN REGARD TO COURTROOM VIDEO.

News Release from Clark Co. Sheriff's Office

Posted on FlashAlert: March 15th, 2021 3:08 PM

March 15 2021 Sheriff Atkins Press Release

It has been reported to me that one of our local judges made what have been described as disparaging, if not offensive and/or insulting remarks that were recorded on a courtroom video. While I have not spoken to the judge about this matter, I do want to reiterate my beliefs both personal and professional as they relate to the expectations of myself and those in my agency.

In August of 2018, I joined Prosecuting Attorney Tony Golik is issuing a "Joint Statement on Hate". That document is proudly displayed in several of the Sheriff's Office buildings, for both public and employee viewing. I stand by those words today that "the criminal justice system must be free of bias, provide equal protections for all, and serve to protect the most vulnerable members of our community." This applies to employees of the Sheriff's Office, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and every other component of Clark County's criminal justice system – judges included.

I furthermore stated then and repeat now my rejection of hate, bigotry, and all actions intended (or not) to harm or intimidate others based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, or any other attribute which serves to marginalize people or groups of people.

I am unwavering in my position, and there can be no mistake in my expectations of the women and men of the Sheriff's Office in the same regard. When responding to accusations or allegations of wrongdoing on the part of this agency, I am committed to the accountability and transparency expected of this community. I am proud of my record in doing my part as Sheriff in seeing that there is a complete and thorough determination of what happened, how and why – and ultimately how we as an agency can do better.

These remain difficult times in our community, for so many, and for so many reasons. Not the least of which for families grieving the loss of loved ones under circumstances that they have unanswered questions about. Irresponsible remarks, actions or deeds that originate from those within the criminal justice system can unfortunately reflect upon all of us within that system. It is in recognition of this, that I strive to ensure that the employees of the Sheriff's Office conduct themselves in the highest regard.

Contact Info:

Sgt. Brent Waddell