

City of High Springs
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High Springs, Florida 32643



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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

January 18th, 2012

To: Chief William Benck
High Springs Police Department

Dear Chief Benck,

In prior discussions with you, I have requested that you or your staff notify me when you are outside the City of High Springs during your working hours for more than 1 hour and indicate who will be in charge of the department during this time.

At this time, I am formally requesting that this be done, I am also requesting that you are either at the office performing your duties or performing patrols during normal office hours.

As a head of our High Springs police department you report directly to me, therefore you must inform me of any vacation time prior to taking this and you must also advise me when you are out of the office and unable to perform your duties.

Sincerely,


Jeri S. Langman
Interim City Manager



High Springs Police Department
110 N.W. 2nd Avenue • P.O. Box 1008
High Springs, Florida 32643/32655
Chief William Benck

January 23, 2012

To: Jeri Langman
Interim City Manager

Ms. Langman,

I received your letter date 01/18/12 and there are several contradictions contained in it.

In the first paragraph you ask me to notify you of when I will be out of the city for more than 1 hour. In the second paragraph you then state that you want me to remain in High Springs during normal office hours. This begs the question, are you requesting that I remain in the city at all times. If so then the various meeting I am involved in will have to go unattended, the reports and citations will have to be delivered to the state attorneys and the clerk of courts by other means.

In the first paragraph you also state that you need to be informed as to who is in charge of the department when I am away for more than 1 hour. Regardless of my physical location as Chief, I am in charge of the department, if problems arise I can be contacted by phone or radio. I have a very competent group of officers that I trust to contact me if a situation unfolds that they need guidance on. I believe what you are requesting is to know who is the senior officer on duty when I am not in the office. This can be accomplished by forwarding you our daily roster, which I will be happy to do.

In paragraph two you state "normal office hours", could you define this. I attend and conduct training anytime from 7am during the week to 7pm on Saturdays. My phone rings and I respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Regardless of your position or rank in law enforcement there are no normal office hours.

Law enforcement is a complicated and difficult task, a task that I have dedicated the last 30 years of my life to. I have experience in both patrol responsibilities

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and in supervising the various aspects of law enforcement. As a City Manager I would think you would meet with me to discuss what needs this department has and how we can meet those needs to better serve all the citizens of High Springs. This meeting has yet to take place. Sending letters requesting changes that you do not understand can be damaging to this department.



Chief William Benck
High springs Police Department