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M. Ryan Williams
435 N. Orange Ave.
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September 23, 2016

Chief Hobley-Burney
Ft. Pierce Police Department
920 South U.S. 1
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Dear Chief Hobley-Burney,

I am writing today to inform you of my gratitude to Sergeant Donald Christman for his work on behalf of the Ninth Judicial Circuit as an expert in Police Use of Force. Sergeant Christman volunteered his years of experience and training to myself and the office I work for in a highly-publicized and contentious criminal case. Though he was never called as a witness in the trial, I thought it important to take a moment to recognize his efforts and contribution.

Our Chief Investigator contacted Mr. Christman after another expert from a local agency quickly and unexpectedly withdrew. With very little notice, Sergeant Christman made himself available for phone conferences and early consultations. He quickly—while maintaining his duties with your agency—reviewed more than 100 pages of discovery that included witness statements, police reports, use-of-force reviews, and several minutes of video in order to render a fair opinion in the case. Following that review, Sergeant Christman conveyed an unbiased review and opinion that led to us listing him as a witness. He was deposed by defense counsel and performed exceptionally well under cross-examination, demonstrating an exceptional knowledge of his field and the facts as they applied. His expertise and preparation allowed him to render a detailed, defensible opinion that examined each officer's actions step-by-step in an easy to understand manner.

Our prosecution team decided to hold Sergeant Christman as a rebuttal witness for presentation purposes, hoping to maximize the impact of his testimony with the jury hearing it after the defense expert. I believe the defense decided not to call their expert because they knew the

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contrast Sergeant Christman's testimony would create. Thus, while we were not able to call him he performed a valuable service to our case and community, all without charging a fee.

Please know that I will remain forever grateful for his efforts, and I am sure you are grateful to have him in your employ. Thank you for sharing his knowledge with us.

Sincerely,



M. Ryan Williams
Assistant State Attorney
Homicide/Major Crimes
Ninth Judicial Circuit