

Daniela Stout

05-18-2020

Dear

Mayor Linda Hudson, Fort Pierce City Commissioners Rufus Alexander, Jeremiah Johnson, Thomas Perona, Reginald Sessions, and City Manager Nicholas Mimms,

Most of you know me as Officer or Detective DD, and I've worn that title proudly for just over 19 years, representing not only the Fort Pierce Police Department, but also the City of Fort Pierce. Much has happened in these past 19 years of service to this community – many great things, as well as things I've largely kept to myself, that weren't so great.

Today I come to you in regards to an issue which has been festering for some time, and I am disappointed in the fact that the situation has not been remedied to date. As you are well aware, the Fort Pierce Police Department continues to lose officers at an alarming rate. It is not only sad, but unsettling that we are used to being considered the "training grounds" for officers along the Treasure Coast. Money is being spent on new hires not only to clothe and equip them, but also to train them. And before we know it, usually within less than five years, once they have a little experience under their gun belts, these valuable resources vanish from our rosters in an effort to earn more money at other agencies. In the meantime, we've wasted thousands of dollars on training and equipment, let alone the fact that there is no consistency and stability within our shifts, shifts that are more often than not, running with bare minimum staffing. There is no opportunity for us to have senior officers like myself, because we have no sustainability due to lack of adequate pay. We have little along the lines of experience among our ranks, as those we train leave for better paying positions with other agencies.

I could go on and on, however, you are already well aware of the issues at hand. Presentations have been made, yet to no avail.

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Likewise, all of us at the FPPD are keenly aware of the common response from City Hall, that there is lack of funding, that our department is one-third of the city's budget, that there are obstacles and challenges. Yesterday it was a hurricane, today it'll be COVID 19 – there will always be some issue that will overshadow the need for resolving this travesty in our department. Bottom line is though, if you truly care about something, you make it a priority despite what else is going on. It would go a long way for over 100 of your employees who put their lives on the line day in and day out, sacrificing their own personal wants and needs to serve this community, if we would finally be considered a priority.

That being said, I appeal to you to please move officer's pay to the top of your list of priorities. Give us, whether we've been here one year or 19 plus years, something tangible to cling on to that shows you truly care about the daily sacrifices that are being made. Not words, but actions. Let's move forward...together.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dani Stout