

LETTERS | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Letter: I know Mascara and Williams, and it should be no contest

Staff TCPalm

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As sheriff of Indian River County, I stay abreast of important news items across the Treasure Coast, including letters to the editor that stand out for one reason or another. The April 14 letter from Richard Williams, candidate for St. Lucie County sheriff, surely stood out to me, as does the absurdity of his candidacy.

As the supervisor of the Florida Highway Patrol Fort Pierce office, Williams was a trooper under my command. Although he may have begun his career with enthusiasm, it was short-lived, as his unethical behavior ultimately led to his recommended termination from the FHP. To save face, he managed to resign before the final paperwork for his termination was processed.

The community-policing theory he references in his letter was readily available to him when he was employed for the Florida Highway Patrol. Sadly, he opted instead for continued unethical behavior, embarrassing himself, his coworkers and the agency.

The final egregious behavior, which led to his separation, included engaging in sexual activity on multiple occasions while he was on duty, use of inappropriate and/or profane language, improper utilization of his assigned computer to query personal information about individuals, fraudulently filing out time sheets, and lying under oath in an official proceeding.

He should never be employed by a Florida law enforcement agency due to these sustained charges.

This type of behavior and character traits should not permit one to seek any public office of trust, let alone that which is the most respected, ethical and honest of all, the office of sheriff.

St. Lucie County deserves and has one of the best and most well-respected sheriffs in Florida, Ken Mascara. I recommend you keep him as long as he wants to serve.