

St. Lucie News Tribune

An edition of
the Treasure Coast
News/Press Tribune

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS | SERVING FORT PIERCE AND PORT ST. LUCIE

TCPalm.com

Saturday, October 17, 2015

\$1.00

Coming Sunday



SAVE 5

\$240
IN COUPONS
AND SAVINGS

Hopeful's FHP past troubled

By Will Greenlee
will.greenlee@tcpalm.com
772-692-8936

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — The man challenging incumbent St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara in next year's election reports six years of service with the Florida Highway Patrol, but records show he quit his trooper job rather than be fired after

sex-related findings.

Democrat Richard Williams Jr., 38, is challenging Mascara, 57, a Democrat elected in 2000 and re-elected in 2004, 2008 and 2012.

"For six years with the Florida State Troopers, he helped people hurt in accidents, assisted stranded



Richard Williams

motorists and defended the community from impaired drivers, drug smugglers and other threats to the traveling public," an entry on Williams' Facebook page said. According to FHP records obtained this week, Williams was investigated after a 2008 incident in which a

person complained Williams engaged in sexual activity while on duty.

Williams this week said the complainant is a woman whom he later married and divorced.

An investigation concluded Williams "did engage in sexual activity while on duty, harassed and stalked the complainant, and inappropriately used state equipment for

personal use," FHP records state.

Williams this week denied having sex while on duty, harassing and stalking her and inappropriately using state equipment.

FHP Lt. Ryan Martina said the complete investigation file was destroyed after five years, following record retention policies.

See WILLIAMS, 14A

WILLIAMS from 1A

All that remains, Martina said, are brief summaries. He said Williams worked for FHP from November 2002 to July 2009.

Williams "resigned in lieu of dismissal," records state.

Asked about the case, Williams said he was married and was trying to end an extramarital affair.

"The person didn't want to (stop the affair)," Williams said. "I asked the person to please stop contacting me and they

"The other person became very angry at me that I did that and said because of their profession they were going to protect themselves at all costs," Williams said.

Asked what he would say to voters who might question his past or ability to lead the Sheriff's Office, Williams said: "I would say that is my past. It's false allegations. There's nothing I can do to change it."

Also in 2008, Williams was involved in another incident that was investigated internally.

The allegation involved not obeying a sergeant's

found Williams was in-subordinate.

Williams said that incident stemmed from a disagreement over making an arrest. Williams got a written reprimand.

Williams, of Port St. Lucie, in an earlier interview accused Mascara of not properly addressing crime in Fort Pierce.

"When the sheriff himself allows crime to go on like it does in Fort Pierce, and he tells his deputies when and when not to go help Fort Pierce, I have a problem with that because then you are picking and choosing when

"Our agency works hand-in-hand with not only the Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie police departments, but numerous other state and federal agencies on a daily basis," he stated. "The contention that deputies are told not to work with anyone in our community is patently absurd and I will not dignify such baseless allegations with further discussion."

Mascara stated during his tenure that crime is down and noted several high-profile crimes that have been solved, such as the quadruple homicide of the Florida family

pedophiles behind bars, nearly shut down marijuana grow houses and prescription pill mills and responded to hurricanes.

He also talked about

the investigation into the 2013 murder of Sgt. Gary Morales. A jury on Oct. 9 recommended a death sentence for Morales' killer, Eriese Tisdale.

1343 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.
Port St. Lucie

Boulevard
DENTAL ASSOCIATES 772-337-1111
www.boulevarddentalassociates.com

All Phases Of Dentistry

No Drill, No Needle White Fillings

All Porcelain Crowns

Dentures and Partial