



OTSEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

172 County Highway 33W
Cooperstown, New York 13326

MEDIA RELEASE

RICHARD J. DEVLIN, JR
SHERIFF



CAMERON S. ALLISON
UNDERSHERIFF

Incident: Sheriff's Response to Otsego County Press Release dated March 9, 2017

Date/Time: March 10, 2017 3:00pm

Narrative: Sheriff Richard J. Devlin, Jr. confirms that an investigation is being conducted concerning an employee of the Sheriff's Office in regards to allegations related to workplace violence. Sheriff Devlin states that his office has cooperated fully with the District Attorney and the NYS Police regarding the January incident.

The State Police investigation has been concluded and referred to the Otsego County District Attorney. A personnel investigation into the incident has been turned over to two separate Sheriff's for their independent review and recommendation. Sheriff Devlin fully advised the Public Safety Committee of this fact on March 9, 2017 in executive session at around 10:00am.

Sheriff Devlin denies any claims made by the board concerning the records subpoena, and advises that he did FULLY comply with the subpoena issued on March 7, 2017 by the Otsego County Board of Representatives.

Of concern to Sheriff Devlin is the Public Safety Committee statement that they are aware of other alleged incidents in the correctional facility. As of now, they have not shared any of that information with the Sheriff.

As the regulator of the jail, and to ensure that we are providing proper safety and security to our inmates, the Sheriff has contacted the NYS Commission of Corrections requesting their assistance in investigating these alleged incidents.

As the overseer of all County Jails and Prisons in the State of New York, The NYS Commission of Corrections has stated that it will investigate any instances of misconduct or use of force involving inmates when information is provided to them by the Sheriff.

The Commission will conduct a professional and impartial investigation into these alleged incidents and bring to our attention any concerns or issues that need to be addressed or corrected.

The Otsego County Jail is evaluated annually in order to evaluate compliance with all rules, regulations and policies. The last evaluation conducted by the NYS Commission of Corrections concerning the Otsego County Jail, occurred over the period of a week in November of 2016. No major issues were identified during this site visit and review, other than building maintenance issues in the inmate housing area. Sheriff Devlin has been trying to address these housing

concerns with the County since receiving the Commissions report.

The Sheriff is very proud of the men and women of the Sheriff's Office who work under difficult conditions daily. This request for an investigation in no way questions the integrity of our employees.

As your elected Sheriff I have a responsibility to identify and rectify issues if they exist to assure the public that we did everything within our capabilities to ensure that we are performing the job that is expected of us.

For more information regarding this please contact the Otsego County Sheriff's Office at the following number: (607)547-4273

MISSION STATEMENT

The Otsego County Sheriff's Office is committed to partnering with the people we serve in order to prevent crime and injustice. We are driven to enhance the quality of life of our community as we hold ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism, performance and ethics.

STAR___WDOS/WSRK___WBNG___PRESS___CRIER___WZOZ___WBUG___OTHER___

Submitted by : Sheriff Richard J. Devlin, Jr.