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JAY T. ARMBRISTER
SHERIFF

STACY SIMMONS
UNDERSHERIFF

To: Mackenzie Clark @ The Lawrence Times

From: Sheriff Jay Armbrister #S203

Re: State v. Hart In-Camera File Review

Date: 05.06.2022

Ms. Clark:

It has come to my attention that I was either misinformed or simply misunderstood some information from the State v. Hart case and in the name of transparency, I'm here to clear up what I now know to be inaccurate information provided to you for your article. During the course of State v. Hart, the defense, Ms. Keck, requested my personnel files and in particular, the investigation into an allegation made by her and conducted by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. The findings of that investigation reside in my personnel file, and she was asking the courts to compel me to produce this file.

Here is where I clearly misunderstood what was happening and then assumed an event took place that I have since learned did not. I was told my file or that report would have to be provided to the court, and the judge would conduct an "in-camera review" of the materials and the judge would then decide whether it was material evidence for the case specifically. It was my understanding this did occur, but I now know it did not. While I welcome any review of this information by a court deciding my truthfulness, it did not happen as I wrote in my responses to your questions two weeks ago.

I can only apologize for my misunderstanding and for assuming something was fact when it was not, but I can tell you with 100% certainty when I typed my statements to you, I absolutely believed it to be the truth. Now I know it is not, and I am here to let you know and offer to further help clear up this one point. This is me being open and honest about a mistake and ready to do what I can to help clear this matter up. Thanks...

Respectfully, Sheriff Jay Armbrister #S203