



Jay Armbrister For Douglas County Sheriff

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A bit of a downer post tonight, but this is absolutely necessary to talk about. I have learned so very much since filing for office about how politics and the world works. I've learned who I can and cannot trust and I know not all who are kind wish you well. This is my story to tell and I will not let anybody else carry my narrative.

No matter what, just VOTE. Don't care who you vote for, just vote!

TLDR: I made mistakes. I've owned up to all of it. It's over and time to move on.

In my very first interview (Early June) with the Lawrence Journal-World as a candidate for Douglas County Sheriff I shared information about a case and the possibility of policy violations during this interview, which they then published. In late August, the Journal-World ran another article that focused on this complaint but I didn't feel it was clear that this was information I had already shared.

This complaint was filed by defense counsel representing a defendant in an on-going district court case where I am under subpoena. The complaint went so far as to allege that I (and others...but mainly me) had not only violated department policies, but that my actions constituted criminal behavior.

Based on the fact that I won the primary election and am currently the presumed Sheriff-elect, Sheriff Roberts wished to absolve the agency from any possible allegations of a cover-up or collusion, so he called in the Johnson County Sheriff's Office to conduct this investigation. I applaud Sheriff Roberts for doing this as it was absolutely the right move.

Well, that investigation is now complete and I have accepted my consequences. The investigation showed that there was absolutely NO criminal intent or activity, and that I did not act in any kind of malicious way, or with intent to hinder the defense or prosecution. There were however violations of department policy, but again, I've been very clear about those already and I even brought highlighted copies of the policies with me to the interview with the investigator. I've never tried to hide the fact that mistakes were made and I made them. I am human and I can honestly say this will most likely not be my last mistake, but I hope you take away the fact that I have never hid from it and I have accepted responsibility. That's what I would want in a leader...

In case you have not seen the details of this incident, here is what happened. I was the supervisor on duty and responded to a sexual assault call. Both myself and another deputy had recorded conversations with the victim of the alleged incident during the initial call. Long story short, neither one of us saved that recording from the server to the report. The recordings were present for one year on the recording system's server, but after that year, they dropped off the server and this was an error on my behalf to not only to save my recording, but to ensure that the other deputy's recording was saved as well. From the very beginning, I have not only been open about my mistakes, but I have also testified in court about my actions and inactions. Not once have I tried to cover this up or place blame anywhere other than where it belonged, and that was squarely with me.

I have so very much more to say about this complaint and the details surrounding it, but as this case is still going through the court systems, I simply cannot say another word about it.

The true victim in all of this is the young woman who was allegedly victimized not only the night of this incident, but every day since it happened. Due to these mistakes, she has not received the closure she deserves. For that, I owe her, and only her, an apology. -Jay