



# News Release

**Alachua County Sheriff's Office**

**Sadie Darnell, Sheriff**

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Today's Date: August 1, 2016**

**Prepared by: Lt. Brandon Kutner**

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**Media Advisory: Sheriff Darnell and Board of County Commissioners Settle ACSO 2016 Budget Appeal**

This afternoon, at a Special Commission Meeting convened by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to discuss Sheriff Darnell's appeal of the FY 2016 Law Enforcement Budget, a compromise was reached. Sheriff Darnell agreed to accept the BOCC's offer, which mirrored a compromise offered by the Sheriff on July 22, 2016, in the amount of \$300,000 to be applied to the current budget. These funds will be utilized to offset added personnel overtime costs which have resulted from the BOCC's decision last August to cut over \$936,000 from the 2016 law enforcement personnel services funding.

"It is clear that the hearing panel in Tallahassee viewed the BOCC's actions, which cut funding to my law enforcement personnel, as arbitrary and capricious", Darnell stated. "Their corresponding recommendation to Governor Scott and the entire Cabinet to restore funding to my 2016 budget in the amount of \$544,000 is a validation of my position".

The compromise reached will avoid the need to appear before the Governor and Cabinet at an Administration Commission hearing which was scheduled for tomorrow, August 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Florida Capitol.

"What is not resolved is the funding for these law enforcement positions moving forward", said Darnell. "These were existing positions already funded in the budget, as they have been for the past decade and beyond. These are not new positions as some of the members of the BOCC would have you believe. My hope is that the BOCC will work collaboratively with me and my staff regarding the reinstatement of funding of these positions next year", she continued.

As a result of the compromise reached, Sheriff Darnell has filed a notice of withdrawal of appeal to the clerk for the Administration Commission effectively ending the appeal process.

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