



Breckinridge County Sheriff's Office
BILLY RICHARDSON
Sheriff



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September 10, 2021

Local newsgroups have recently contacted me regarding a recent hiring decision in the Breckinridge County Sheriff's Office. On September 1, 2021, I hired Jim Sherrard. Jim was the former Police Chief at West Buechel in Louisville, Kentucky. Sherrard had been with the West Buechel Police Department for almost nine (9) years, where he worked his way up from patrolman to chief. Including his time at West Buechel, Sherrard has spent several years in law enforcement. Before hiring Sherrard, My Chief Deputy and I reviewed his records and contacted his previous employers and previous colleagues. During Sherrard's interview, he disclosed that an incident had occurred at his last agency.

I then followed up on this information and was sent a copy of the records he had already provided. That information indicated Sherrard had resigned from his position as Chief at West Buechel. His resignation followed an administrative investigation resulting in a pre-termination letter. That letter stated that there were two reasons for termination. First was that he left his wife in the running vehicle unattended, and second, that he was trying to influence another officer when he found his wife had moved the car and stated, "this will never be discussed," or words to that effect. Upon discussing the situation, I believe that the comment was not made to intimidate or scare. It was merely a statement made to a fellow officer out of frustration with himself and his wife. Sherrard realizes that leaving his wife in the vehicle was a poor decision, and based on our multiple interviews with Sherrard, he has learned from that decision. This incident has been the only one Sherrard or his two most recent law enforcement agencies brought to our attention. Therefore, instead of costing West Buechel time and resources on a hearing, Sherrard resigned from the position because he knew that leaving his wife in the vehicle was a poor choice and one for which there was no excuse. Although it is not uncommon for civilians, family members, Emergency Medical Technicians, Firefighters, etc., to ride along with law enforcement. Or move a patrol car with or without permission; I do not condone Deputy Sherrard's actions to place his wife in a potentially dangerous situation. However, I feel that he deserves a second chance. Therefore, after once again reviewing the background and records of Deputy Sherrard, including information provided to us by his previous employers, I still feel that Sherrard will be an asset to our Sheriff's Office and the County as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Richardson'.

Sheriff William "Billy" Richardson