

In response to the Nov. 22 Naples Daily News article regarding the withdrawal of the appointment of former Collier County sheriff's deputy George D'Alessandro, I would like to address several areas that require further clarification:

The Collier County Sheriff's Office discovered Mr. D'Alessandro's discrepancies in his time entries and used the observations made by his supervisor to begin an investigation. Surveillance and interviews by internal affairs investigators confirmed the policy violations.

Though D'Alessandro stated during the internal affairs investigation that he'd been keeping his time entries in this manner since 1972, he had been a member of the Sheriff's Office since January 1987. There was no evidence that he was doing this every day during his career. In fact, his duties with the Sheriff's Office were such that they required a flexible schedule and were highly dependent on the integrity of the individual deputy to properly and accurately record the time that he worked.

The case was not forwarded to the State Attorney's Office because a large portion of the supporting evidence consisted of his admissions made under the protections of the Garrity rule. The Garrity rule resulted from a U.S. Supreme Court decision case which, in essence, held that any testimony given by a subject in an administrative investigation is considered to be "compelled" and therefore may not be used in a criminal trial, with the only exception being perjury.

**Don Hunter, Sheriff
Collier County, Florida
November 29th, 2006**