



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Encourages Community to Remain Peaceful During Election Season

Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly was made aware of a video this week involving a local resident acting aggressively towards a large gathering of people who came together to show support for a particular Presidential candidate. In the video, the person in support of the opposite candidate drives down the street where the group is gathering while screaming profanities and at points threatening members of the group. During the encounter, the aggressive individual claims to be "buddies" with Sheriff Staly.

"I do not personally know this individual and I certainly do not condone his aggressive behavior. It is behavior like this that causes serious and sometimes deadly incidents," Sheriff Staly said. "I have directed our Homeland Security Section to look in to this troubling video."

With many Americans focused on the upcoming election, the FCSO is reminding residents to remain peaceful and think rationally, not just with emotion. Every American has been granted Constitutional Rights and the First Amendment grants all Americans the right to freedom of speech and the right to peacefully assemble.

"Emotions are high this election season. If you choose to support a political candidate, please do so peacefully and respect the rights of others who may not agree with your views," Sheriff Staly continued. "We will protect everyone's First Amendment rights. If there is a peaceful assembly taking place and you do not agree with their stance, don't go to their gathering, don't drive through it and don't antagonize people. This kind of behavior only hurts your cause and can be extremely dangerous for everyone. You don't have to agree with someone to be kind to them."

If you encounter suspicious activity, please report it to FCSO by calling 386-313-4911. For emergencies, please dial 9-1-1.

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