

Tony R. Helms, Sheriff



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August 23, 2023

Fellow Citizens of Camden County,

My office received information in June of this year from a Cyber Tipline Report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children concerning an individual uploading suspected child pornography in Camden County. My Investigations Division, as part of the Lake Area Cyber Crimes Task Force, began an immediate investigation to determine the source, location, and suspected probable destination of child pornography images. As the investigation progressed, and our team received information from court-issued subpoenas and search warrants, it became apparent the suspect in the case was employed as a Camden County Deputy Sheriff.

As soon as I had this information in late July, I requested a special investigation be conducted by the Digital Forensics Investigative Unit, a state agency working under the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Once the special investigation request was accepted, I placed the deputy on administrative leave on August 1st pending the outcome of the investigation.

DFIU continued to update my staff on the progress of the investigation and on August 22nd, I terminated the deputy's employment for policy violations. At no time during the investigation has there been any indication or evidence of local citizens of Camden County being in danger. The investigation into the former deputy's criminal conduct continues.

There is no greater trust than that placed by the public into the hands of their law enforcement officers. I want to personally assure the people of Camden County that I take my deputy's behavior and responsibilities seriously. I hold each of my deputies to the highest degree of credibility and I expect them to hold themselves likewise. No one is above the law, regardless of their employment status in local, state, or federal government. I will not tolerate criminal behavior in Camden County and certainly not within my own office, and I want you, the citizens of Camden County, to know my resolve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony R. Helms".

Tony R Helms

Sheriff, Camden County