

January 3, 2018

Chief Deputy Sheriff Brian Smith
Bradley County Sheriff's Department
2290 Blythe Avenue
Cleveland, TN 37311

Dear Chief Smith:

Since returning to the Sheriff's Department in 2014 as head of the Criminal Investigations Division, I have dedicated myself to doing the very best job possible. I am proud of the success my division has achieved, with outstanding resolution rates for burglaries and other major crimes. It has truly been a team effort.

However, I feel the time has come for me to separate myself from this administration. I have done my best to lead my division, and to be a positive influence within the management team, despite the dark cloud that has hung over the department for so long. When I can no longer respect or believe the person I work for, I know it is time to make the difficult decision to part ways.

I want you to know as a friend and as someone I respect, I take this action with a heavy heart. I love the sheriff's department, and I have a strong emotional bond with the men and women here who have continued to do such a tremendous job under the most difficult of circumstances. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve along side so many dedicated professionals. The employees, as well as all citizens of Bradley County, deserve so much better.

As I leave, I want you to know my prayers will constantly be with the officers and employees of the department. I pray for their safety, and I pray they know how much they are appreciated by those they serve. May God bless each and every employee, and let us all pray for better days ahead for the Bradley County Sheriff's Office.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Lawson".

Captain Steve Lawson

P.S. Please consider this resignation effective immediately. Based on BCSO policy, I request all of my accrued vacation time be included on my final pay check. Thank you.