

Ronald W. Clark Jr.
July 9, 2018

page 1 of 2

Public Safety

The public is being put in grave danger by under staffing the Fla. Dept of Corrections and over working its current staff. Officers are being required to pull 16 hour shifts. I witnessed an officer last week, pulling me for a call out, after 15½ hours on duty, and he was standing there, his eyes kept involuntarily closing. When I engaged him in a conversation, he stated "That's extremely dangerous having to drive home like that, cause it's been proven, that sleepless driving is far more dangerous than drunk driving, you'd think the FDOC would consider this and stop these sixteen hour shifts." He stated, "They don't care about us. We're just another number, body and position to fill." He went on about how under paid and over worked they are which is why the FDOC can't fill these empty positions. I knew what he was saying was true, cause I've heard it hundreds of times same ol' song and dance.

What will it take to bring change, one of these sleep deprived officers running head on into a politician's loved one and killing them. Then and only then will there be the outrage needed to bring about the change.

Think, you're forced into a 16 hour shift, you get off, you have 8 hours until your next shift, you possibly need to run a couple of errands, you get home, spend some time with your wife and kids, eat and then get to sleep, what maybe 6 hours before having to come back into a high security prison and work "security". There's no way for you to be 100% mentally alert. so not only are they jeopardizing the public by putting sleep deprived officers out on to the highways, in 3,000 pound automobiles risking their lives, as well as those around them, but they're jeopardizing the security of the institutions. For a sleep deprived officer cannot

be physically and mentally alert, which is their job requirement under 33-208.002 Fla. Admin. Codes. someone needs to bring about the necessary change in order to protect these officers and the public from what is clearly "reckless leadership."

These officers need pay raises, better benefits and better working environment. I wouldn't work for the FDOC, or recommend it to anyone. Poor pay, poor benefits, poor work qualities, our officers here, are drenched in sweat. They have to wear sour sweaty uniforms for 12 to 16 hours. Deal with overbearing administrators and silly policies, that make an already difficult job, harder than it needs to be. And they wonder why they can't keep staff! It's not rocket science. its common sense, which is lacking up top. Or maybe what I hear all the time is true. They don't care about their officers, they are another warm body to fill an empty position. All I know, is this is no way to treat your employees, endangering their lives, and those citizens who are out on the highways with them. The more you know*.

Donald W. Clark
The Death Row Poet
July 9, 2018