



LETTERS to the Editor

Ambulances: not just for transport

In your February issue you made a statement that "ambulance companies do exist today, but are used only for transport, not emergency intervention." That information is so far from the truth! The employees for ambulance services are required to be EMT- or paramedic-certified, just as fire/rescue [employees] are. The only certification not required is fire training (and most have that also). For one particular service, approximately 45-50 percent of the calls are emergencies. Granted they do non-emergency calls also. Any ALS (advanced life support) ambulance is capable of the same patient care a rescue unit is. If ambulances come upon a car accident, they are required to stop and care for any victims and are capable of such care. It would be much appreciated if this information were corrected!

I am an employee with a very reputable private ambulance service that takes great pride in our equipment and skills. Most of us are trained firefighters waiting to get hired by the city, and others actually work for the city fire department. We have been the red-headed stepchild of EMS (emergency medical services) and the last thing we want is to be labeled "transportation." We worked just as hard for our certifications as those on JFRD and deserve the respect. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

— J. Hutchins

"You failed miserably with me."

In your February edition, there was an article by Harry Shorstein titled Victims Rights. I found his comments laughable. He certainly knows what to say to make the voters believe he is doing the best job possible for our community.

A member of my family was a victim of molestation by a prominent businessman of our community. Everything in this case was centered on the criminal. His reputation suffered, his family suffered, his business suffered, and all of this was supposed to be some relief to us.

It appears to me that our State Attorney's Office and others in the Judicial System have become calloused by the violence that has surrounded them for years. Because of the severity of many of the crimes they see, they choose to smack on the wrist first time offenders. Weren't they all first time offenders at some point? Perhaps if we made a stronger point from the beginning, many would choose not to repeat their crimes!

The Assistant State Attorney invited the victims' families to her office after one of the hearings we attended. Mr. Shorstein joined us. Their intentions were to discuss the

fact the State was going to offer a plea bargain to this man of ZERO to six years. (This man was charged with thirteen felony counts of lewd and lascivious molestation.) The families and the victims did not agree with this plea bargain. The word "zero" was completely unacceptable. The State would not remove the word zero and it was offered anyway.

At the sentencing hearing Judge Skinner was quoted, "we see crimes of a much more serious nature on a daily basis." He also stated that the sentence given was consistent with sentences imposed upon others for similar crimes. The recommended sentencing guidelines this crime should carry as described by the State of Florida is a minimum of 6.7 years for each count. Why does Duval County disregard the guidelines that have been recommended by the Florida Legislature?

Mr. Shorstein stated, "We have made excellent progress in recent years in assuring criminals actually serve their time." The criminal in our case is scheduled for release on March 20. He will have served a little more than eight months of his sentence. Did Mr. Shorstein mean

to say *most* of their sentence? I don't care about gain time or whatever they choose to call it. If the sentence is one year, a criminal should be in jail for one year!

In the article, Mr. Shorstein says that he believes you fight and ultimately change perception one victim at a time. You failed miserably with me, Mr. Shorstein!

— Mrs. A. Clark

E-MAIL THE EDITOR

**Do you
have any
story ideas,
comments
or
editorial
for our
newspaper?**

*I look forward to
hearing from you.
e-mail me at...*

sshaw@justicecoalition.org

WANTED

by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office



**MARGARET
MAUREEN SMITH**

VA#: 2077 Race: Black
Sex: Female DOB: 1/20/80
Ht.: 5'8" Wt.: 200
Violation: Worthless Check
Obt Property



**BREECE
BENSON SNEED**

VA#: 2063 Race: Black
Sex: Male DOB: 2/27/77
Ht.: 5'7" Wt.: 145
Violation: Intercourse w/a minor



**ANTONIO
LEON SOLOMON**

VA#: 2074 Race: Black
Sex: Male DOB: 2/18/67
Ht.: 5'8" Wt.: 240
Violation: Unemployment Comp Fraud



**PIERRE
ANDRE SOLOMON**

VA#: 2069 Race: Black
Sex: Male DOB: 3/6/73
Ht.: 6'2" Wt.: 197
Violation: Dealing Stolen Property



**DONNA
ELAINE TUELL**

VA#: 2065 Race: White
Sex: Female DOB: 10/8/81
Ht.: 5'5" Wt.: 180
Violation: Grand Theft



**WAYNE
CURTIS WAGNER**

VA#: 2062 Race: White
Sex: Male DOB: 11/22/65
Ht.: NA Wt.: NA
Violation: Grand Theft



**HERNANDO
D. WATERS**

VA#: 2079 Race: Black
Sex: Male DOB: 3/14/80
Ht.: 6'0" Wt.: 170
Violation: Possession of Cocaine



**ROBERT C.
WILLIAMS, III**

VA#: 2067 Race: White
Sex: Male DOB: 8/31/81
Ht.: 5'6" Wt.: 140
Violation: Possession of Cocaine



**ROBERT
KENNETH WILLIAMS**

VA#: 2064 Race: Black
Sex: Male DOB: 5/19/68
Ht.: 6'2" Wt.: 200
Violation: Felony Battery-Domestic

Anyone with any information concerning these individuals, please call JSO at 904-630-0500