



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

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November 1, 2006

Colonel Christopher A. Knight, Director  
Florida Highway Patrol  
Neil Kirkman Building  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: STATE v. GREGORY H. PLATT  
COLUMBIA CO. CASE NO. 04-400-CF

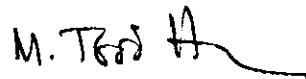
Dear Colonel Knight:

This letter is in reference to the above case which resulted in the death of Florida Highway Patrolman, Sgt. George A. "Andy" Brown, III, back in April of 2004. As you know, Mr. Platt was found guilty of MURDER II, FLEEING POLICE OFFICER:HIGH SPEED PURSUIT, LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRASH: DEATH, and DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED in Columbia County Circuit Court on October 5, 2006. He was sentenced on today's date by the Hon. Paul S. Bryan to Count 1 – LIFE IN PRISON, Count 2 – 15 YEARS IN PRISON, Count 3 – 15 YEARS IN PRISON, and Count 4 – 60 DAYS IN THE COUNTY JAIL. All Counts are to run consecutive to one another and consecutive to any prison sentence the Defendant is currently serving. Barring a successful appeal (which is unlikely), Mr. Platt will serve the rest of his natural life in prison.

To follow-up on our conversation this morning, this letter is to memorialize our commendation of Cpl. Bill Barge, with your agency, for his performance and cooperation throughout the litigation of this case. As you know, any case involving the murder of a law enforcement officer is extremely important and garners significant attention in the region and throughout the state-wide law enforcement community. Cpl. Barge, although always a witness in this case, was elevated to a key role very late in trial preparation. This was the result of unforeseen challenges in the presentation of the traffic crash reconstruction evidence. Cpl. Barge literally dropped everything to help us win this case. He even made himself available one Sunday afternoon and another weeknight for trial preparation at the courthouse. Cpl. Barge came through for us and did a *fantastic job* in presenting this testimony to the jury! Cpl. Barge has an amazing ability to simplify what can be rather complicated facts for a jury, yet he is always prepared to answer the most complex and challenging of questions on cross-examination. Your agency is fortunate to have such an *industrious, highly-trained and articulate* officer.

Please convey to Cpl. Barge our *heartfelt appreciation* for his efforts in helping to obtain this conviction. He represented your agency extremely well here in Columbia County! If I can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to call me any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Todd Hingson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

M. Todd Hingson  
Assistant State Attorney