



Just the Facts!

Loyalty and Integrity

(November 13, 2009)

The Truth About Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario

The staff at Garfield County Sheriff's Office would like the citizens of Garfield County to know the truth about our leader, Lou Vallario. Over the past two years there has clearly been an attempt to discredit and "trash" him by some of the local media, a few former employees, and a small group of citizens in this valley. Until now we have been silent, but we have had enough. Lou has served and protected this community for years, first as a Glenwood Springs Police Officer and for the past seven years as Sheriff of Garfield County.

There has been criticism of the Sheriff after the purchase of the armored rescue vehicle. We promise you that Jefferson County Sheriff's Office never imagined they would have students killing other students at Columbine and the staff at Ft. Hood probably did not believe they would witness soldiers killing soldiers. We hope that we never have to use the BearCat in a similar horrible situation, however we know that possibility does exist. Contrary to some beliefs, our community is not as peaceful, quiet and innocent as it once was. Under Sheriff Vallario's leadership this agency has acquired the equipment and training to combat situations that we all hope will never happen. He has the foresight to look to the future while hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

Recently he has received criticism for changing the application process for volunteers. Again, it is nothing more than trying to protect the citizens of this community. We have great volunteers that spend hours of their own time serving their community. In this world however, the reality is that sometimes there are predators that use organizations to prey on others. We absolutely do not mean to imply this is the case with any of the current volunteers.

Sheriff Vallario has the admiration, respect and loyalty of his staff. We wish that you could see how serious he takes his job and how hard he fights to improve the Sheriff's Office and this county. Recently he has been called a "Nazi" among other things. If you only knew where his heart lies concerning the citizens of Garfield County, you would see how ridiculous a statement this is. Every decision he makes is what he truly feels will protect and make this a better community. With the assistance of other agencies and members of Garfield County, Sheriff Vallario has been instrumental in implementing programs that have had a positive impact in our county.

Those programs include:

Child Help River Bridge Center which helps children who are victims of abuse and sex assaults.

Victim Response Team that assists all local law enforcement agencies by providing initial victim services and assistance to victims of crime and traumatic situations.

Animal Control program which helped manage the increasing stray and abandoned animals by providing reduced spay and neutering costs and assisting with adoptions.

AHRT a multi-jurisdictional tactical and hazmat support team which not only serves Garfield County but assist the whole northwest region of Colorado.

SANE Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

School and Community Programs

TAG Threat Assessment Group which identifies and shares intelligence information on gangs and other threat groups operating in Garfield County

Garfield County Sheriff's Office is building a state of the art forensic lab that will provide for the recovery of digital and electronic data that will assist in the prosecution of crimes in our valley.

We are so thankful and fortunate to work under his guidance and we feel that he has helped not only to make us better officers and employees but better people. For the most part Lou's job is thankless. When he makes the right decisions no one says "thanks" but if people do not agree he hears their wrath. Most of us got into this line of work for the same reasons that Lou did. We want to serve our communities. Most of you do not realize the toll it takes on us and our families. While many of you are home spending time with your families during holidays, we are missing those days with ours since we are working in the jail or patrolling the streets and protecting you. We don't complain and we don't want your sympathy. It's what we signed on to do and we perform our duties with pride. We go home after our day, hold our loved ones and thank God that he allowed us to make it another day. We get kicked, spit on, called everything that you can imagine and we do it day after day. We understand that it's part of the job. Lou understands that he will receive criticism and that too is part of his job. God only knows why he would want to stand and take the beating he is receiving simply because he wants to make this a better and safer community, but we understand and we admire him for it.

We realize that this letter will probably bring more criticism down on Lou and we deeply regret that, but we want this community to know that he is not only a great leader but a great man. Every decision he makes is with your best interest at heart. So as the saying goes, "You that is without fault cast the first stone." So cast away!! Just know that he has big shoulders and he knows that he has the absolute total support of his staff.

Lou, know that we respect, admire and appreciate you. As one of our fellow officers stated, you are by far the best teacher, mentor, commander/leader that we have ever had in our lives. We are proud to serve along side of you.

Respectfully,

Garland Atkins
Chris Bornholdt
Savana Hatch
Jennifer Hughes
Autumn Larose

Lupita Benavides
Colt Cornelius
Holly Hopple
Vicki Jones
Mary Lee

Tamra Blackard
Maira Contreras
Laura Horsey
Addie Lagace
Donivan Livingston

Jessica Limper
Bill Middleton
Bob Muehlbauer
Martina Ramirez
Vicki Ruechel
Alice Gates
Charlie Bate
Justin Botting
Brian Chase
Kevin Erpestad
Sheila Frazee
Alvaro Grajalez
Toni Hauser
Steve Hopple
Aaron Lopez
James Myer
Rob Nye
Brandi Rousseau
Brian Thomasson
Jim Williams
Darren Alstatt
Kathleen Barthel
Gregory Choinkowski
Earl Gay
Christopher Janz
Steve Kuhl
Josh Osborne
Leighton Stone
Smokey Torres
Shaun Wood
Don Brier

Jerry McClaskey
Adria Milton-Baker
Jamie Muehlbauer
Cathy Redman
Judy Blakeslee
Matt Anderson
Derek Bihr
Jim Brassfield
Connie Copen
Nora Espinoza
Lester Gherardini
Brian Griffin
Jeff Hoffmeister
Valorie Lee
James Miller
Nick Nelson
Maddie Rogerson
Verna Sackrider
Audrey Thornton
Pamela Workman
Jason Alstatt
Jesse Burris
Kurt Conrad
Vernon Giles
Evan Jaramillo
Bill Lang
Jim Schuckers
Brian Sutton
Chad Whiting
Megan Alstatt
Robert Glassmire

Tanny McGinnis
Char Monger
Lois Muehlbauer
Tim Rhodes
Adam Ford
Robert Bargas
Ken Blatter
Denise Burts
Cole Edwards
Adrian Frazee
Matthew Graham
Jo Guill
Harry Hughes
Brandon Locklear
Ashley Muehlbauer
David Nichols
Dana Rohan
Kim Sills
Marjorie Widmer
Laura Yoder
Brent Baker
Aimee Chappelle
Josh Craine
Dave Hatch
Matt Jenness
Joe Lemoine
Derek Signorelli
Tom Swale
Jerry Wilson
Eric Ashworth