## A Foundation of Good Morals

If I'm elected Sheriff, one of my main focuses will be to assemble a group of deputies that have good moral character. At their core, every deputy employed by the Pickens County Sheriff's Office needs to be "Good". Their focus should be on protecting the citizens of Pickens County and helping when there is a need. We will hold ourselves to a high moral standard.

Here's what that looks like:

- 1) A deputy who breaks the law will get what everyone else gets. A deputy will not be able to pull out a badge when they are in trouble and have that trouble go away.
- 2) Our deputies will arrest citizens who have broken the law in the kindest way possible (the citizen who has broken the law is still a human being). In some bad situations that may end up being wrestling or even using our weapons but under the circumstances that is the kindest way it can be done. But we will always treat everyone as a human being, a loved creation of God.
- 3) We will not run or hide from responsibility. If we (the deputies or myself) make a mistake it will not be covered up or spun to make the mistake sound like it is ok or not a really big deal. Mistakes will be made, we are human. But a person with good moral character doesn't try to hide their mistakes; instead, they own them, learn from them, and try to do better.

The foundation of everything we do at the Pickens County Sheriff's Office needs to start with good moral character (our hiring and promotion practices, our drug interdiction, our 911 calls, our arrest procedures, our School Resource Officers,.....). If we start with good moral character everything we do will have a firm foundation and stand firm in the tough times that are ahead. We have a job to do, and we will do it, but we cannot meet bad with bad. We must meet bad with good.

Michael Ticknor

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