



LEA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Steve Ackerman • Sheriff

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News Release

Lea County Sheriff's Office

Over the past year, Sheriff Steve Ackerman and his staff have seen positive changes to the Office. As a result of these changes, we have improved community relations, produced better investigations, and increased our efforts in crime detection and prevention by our deputies and investigators.

While implementing many positive changes in these aspects, in an effort to maintain complete accountability in all areas, Sheriff Ackerman conducted internal reviews on several department procedures and accounts. The result of these reviews and audits generated some concerns and possible inconsistencies.

To maintain complete transparency, as a result of the initial findings of these audits, Sheriff Ackerman consulted with Lea County's Finance Director and Legal Office to request another review and to determine what would be in the best interest of the Sheriff's Office, its personnel, and the community. The Lea County Finance Director and Attorney determined an independent investigation was required.

Sheriff Ackerman contacted the New Mexico State Police and asked them to complete an independent investigation, separate from the review which was completed by Lea County. The New Mexico State Police has agreed to complete this investigation and are in the initial steps of their investigation. The Lea County Sheriff's Office has presented all relevant documents and information to the New Mexico State Police.

Sheriff Ackerman and the personnel at the Lea County Sheriff's Office are dedicated to the citizens of Lea County and want to ensure our department is transparent and appropriate in every area of our service. Questions regarding this investigation should be referred to the New Mexico State Police - Public Information Office, as we are not able to comment on any portion of this case or its findings until the investigation is completed.

Tom Dunford

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