

James M. Sexton
Los Angeles, CA

The Honorable Percy Anderson
United States District Court
First Street Courthouse, 350 W. 1st Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Judge Anderson,

I understand the entire Operation Pandora's Box matter has consumed an exorbitant amount of your time and docket. As a member of this conspiracy, I am not naïve that I am one of the common denominators in this matter. It is my intent and purpose to provide additional insights into Mr. Leroy Baca as a person rather than the Former Sheriff of Los Angeles County. My observations are based from a perspective of a child, young man, and a subordinate with a budding career in Mr. Baca's former Department. Not only was my career expendable but a multitude of lives were considered an acceptable loss in Mr. Baca's nefarious calculus to obstruct justice and lie to both his community and Federal Authorities. Please consider in advance that I too once believed Mr. Baca was a benevolent and prolific agent for change. However, looking back on a relationship that spans well over half my life, I see Mr. Baca's character based on more self-centered, ambitious, and apathetic pillars that he gilded with false virtues and core values.

My first interaction with Mr. Baca was in the Fall of 2000. My family hosted him in Tuscaloosa, AL. At this time, Mr. Baca was a neophyte Sheriff to the largest Sheriff's Department in the Country. My father was on the Board of Directors for the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) and the way he spoke about Mr. Baca years prior made Baca seem larger than life to me. However, having finally met Mr. Baca in person in 2000, I saw some startling character flaws that could only be observed from someone who had nothing to offer Baca. What is even worse, Baca created the first of many rifts between my father and me as a result of Baca's lie and manipulation. It was a foreshadowing event to say the least.

Mr. Baca was working his way through a buffet at a function hosted by my family. It is custom in the South to ensure your family's guest are attended to. Mr. Baca had his back to me and was positioned in the room where it was impossible to approach him from the front, so I did my best to announce my presence from within his peripheral vision and off to the side. As I announced myself, he turned to me and shot me a perturbed look. I identified myself as Sheriff Sexton's oldest son and then thanked him for traveling to Alabama and working with my father. Later, my father came to me and scolded me for being rude and inappropriately addressing his friend.

It shocked me Mr. Baca misrepresented the interaction as disrupting, inappropriate, and disrespectful to his title. My first impression of Baca was never a positive one, in fact, he and I were circumspect of one another my entire career. I joined the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department because of the men and women within the rank and file that impressed me with their demeanor. It is these quiet professionals that I pray you consider a first priority in addition to the Law Enforcement Community as a whole while you sentence Mr. Baca. In a cruel irony, Baca's "Core Values" were used against them, while he was never held accountable for any of his actions or orders. To date, Mr. Baca has done everything to defend himself in the court of public opinion, preserve his legacy as a progressive law enforcement executive, and separate himself entirely from the blue collar members of Operation Pandora's Box.

My final interaction with Mr. Baca occurred in April 2013 and I believe it speaks volumes to his personal beliefs, his leadership style, and the executive he truly is. As the record shows, the

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department was embroiled with internal strife originating from Baca's selection for Undersheriff, clashing with partner agencies, and the overall morale was at an all-time low. Mr. Baca would routinely represent to my father that I was reporting "line gossip and dissent", all while defending his handpicked Executives. Mr. Baca stated to me, "my executives are the hardest working and finest men and women in the Department because I picked them!"

I made an effort to capitalize on what I believed to be a moment to speak truth to power. I explained to Mr. Baca how people in the department were frustrated about the systemic callous indifference that line personnel received from Executives when they report anything that negatively affected the department. I even went as far to share stories about fellow deputies who had succumbed to substance abuse and how I had just lost a partner to suicide; who carried out the act in his Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Class A Uniform. Baca replied, "there are many variables in that equation, which I am not one nor am I responsible for it". That was my last personal conversation with Mr. Baca and he continues to validate my observations to date.

Regardless of my personal insights, I understand my reporting will always be considered bias. However, I ask you consider what letters are not in Mr. Baca's portfolio and what were the motivations/reciprocations of the people wrote on his behalf. Your Honor, you will be hard pressed to find anyone who had nothing to offer Mr. Baca, but required to sacrifice everything at a moment's notice in his filings. What is even more startling is there are representatives of Organizations within his letters of consideration that are supposed to be gatekeepers and safeguards to what the badge means.

Even as I am writing this letter, people are citing Mr. Baca's National Sheriff of the Year as a reason not to send him to prison. This is an extremely disconcerting representation for several reasons. The National Sheriffs' Association is an organization made up of mostly elected Sheriffs who should hold their peer accountable for his actions. They should be the first to protect the meaning of what it is to not only wear the badge, but lead by example. Sheriff Baca wishes to receive all the glory of being Sheriff but none of the burden of leadership for orders he issued. Sadly, this is not the first Sheriff to remain uncounseled for his actions, which would have otherwise been a career ending event for any other person in law enforcement. Your sentencing alone could send the message these constituencies so desperately need in today's community relations environment.

Mr. Baca has always positioned himself as uninformed, fragile, or a victim, while in reality he is a calculated and capable political operator who can summon hundreds of powerful supporters armed with plausible stories that require your consideration and leniency. I respectfully request you consider the long term consequences of letting the Captain of an industry be held to less of a standard than his subordinates. Mr. Baca is a victim of the totality of his decisions, which includes his choice for Undersheriff and sacrificing the even lesser in his chain of command.

In a national environment of community relations, this sentence is an opportunity to send a message that no one is above the law, least of all an elected official entrusted with enforcing it. As the highest-ranking member of the nation's largest sheriff department, and a man who instituted accountability as a core value in his organization, Mr. Baca should be the first in line to agree with me.

Respectfully,


James M. Sexton