



City of Alachua

The Good Life Community

Celebrating a Century
1905-2005

Clovis Watson, Jr., MPA
City Manager

Jean Calderwood
Mayor

Gib Coerper
Vice-Mayor

James Lewis
Commissioner

Orien Hills
Commissioner

Bonnie Burgess
Commissioner

December 14, 2006

The High Springs Herald
5 N.W. First Street
High Springs, Florida 32643

Dear Editor,

This is a response to the November 30, 2006 article on Clovis Watson, Jr., City Manager of the City of Alachua. The headline is misleading. First of all, the State of Florida has not made any determination that Mr. Watson is breaking the law. The fact is Mr. Watson holds a single established position at the City of Alachua and that is as its City Manager. Mr. Watson has maintained his law enforcement accreditation. A sheriff, such as the Sheriff of Alachua County, does not have to be sworn, however, he or she may wish to be sworn and maintain their law enforcement accreditation.

Mr. Watson's job duties are set forth very specifically in his employment contract with the City. He is paid in accordance with that contract for all the duties and responsibilities he has as City Manager. There is only one salaried and budgeted position for Mr. Watson – City Manager for the City of Alachua. There is no salaried position for a "Police Commissioner." It is merely an additional title. The Governor and cabinet of the State of Florida hold many titles and roles such as the chair and members of the following:

State Board of Executive Clemency
State Board of Administration
Division of Bond Finance
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Department of Law Enforcement
Department of Revenue
Administration Commission
Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission
Electrical Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Board
Board of Trustees Internal Improvement Trust Fund
Financial Services Commission

Even though the Governor and his cabinet have all of these titles, they hold and are only paid for one position.

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The Attorney General opinion that you mentioned in your article deals with an entirely different situation, where a police chief was holding or attempting to hold two established, budgeted positions, that of both the police chief and the city manager. That is not the case here. The City of Alachua has had the same police chief for over ten years. The City of Alachua's police chief answers to the City Manager. The police chief and city manager at the City of Alachua are two separate paid budgeted positions which are held by two different people. Clovis Watson, Jr. only holds one of those positions, the City Manager.

Sincerely,



Jean B. Calderwood
Mayor, City of Alachua

cc: Mr. Ed Barber, Publisher

City of Alachua

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