



**Office of the Sheriff  
Candell County, Ohio**

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Tafton, OH 48823

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*Ray D. Kates,  
Sheriff*

*Eldon Jenkins,  
Chief Deputy*

Sam Watts, Candell Co. Prosecutor's Office  
1432 Brick St.  
Tafton, OH 48823

Wednesday, January 24th 2007

Dear Sam,

I'm a bit concerned regarding the status of the case we are building against Mike Pratt. As you know, repeated scourings of the Walnut Fork property have given us no physical evidence. Under the circumstances, it will be crucial that the rest of the case be airtight.

You are also aware, I'm sure, of the persistent rumors that Pratt was out of town on the night of the Dempsey murder. As yet, at your request, my office has not investigated this aspect of the case. With talk of an alibi circulating in the courthouse, it is imperative that we do so as soon as possible to avoid any ugly surprises.

What concerns me most is that you have interviewed Andrew Beltran more than once with regard to the Pratt case. I certainly hope you are not planning to use Beltran, with all his credibility issues, as a witness. In my opinion, we ought to have proceeded with the prosecution of him for obstruction of justice. We should not compound the problem by relying on him as a witness in the Pratt matter.

I think with the physical evidence gathered at the Pratt home and the theory you have constructed about Pratt's obsessions will get us a long way if presented effectively. Please contact me at your soonest convenience so we can discuss these concerns and I can learn from you how I can help further out efforts.

As always, my office stands ready to help out in any capacity you deem appropriate.

Yours,

Ray