

In early 2025 myself and the majority of the deputies got together to put a union in place. This all started after 911 director Sara Beaty got abruptly fired for “not at fault” reasons. The other deputies and I talked about different unions and agreed that AFCSME would be the best. After many meetings and talks with the union AFCSME, AFCSME sent a message to Sheriff Prouty asking if he would recognize us as a union, Prouty’s response was “no”.

With Sheriff Prouty saying “no” to the union, it was forced to go to a vote among the deputies. The vote passed. With the vote passing, the deputies of Union County were officially unionized. Within the deputies we needed to vote certain positions. Grayson Lass was voted as a negotiator, as was I. Kevin O’Mahoney was voted president of our union. It was not to many months after this that we scheduled a date for Myself, Grayson, and our union representative Jordan to meet with some of the commissioners to negotiate a contract.

A couple weeks before this meeting, Grayson Lass was abruptly fired. I went to the meeting with Jordan and had a good first meeting with the two commissioners that we met with. After that meeting we needed another deputy to step up and take Grayson’s spot as negotiator. Kevin O’Mahoney volunteered. On June 23rd Kevin and I were both fired for “not at fault” reasons. Our termination paperwork said it had nothing to do with our conduct, policy violations, or how we worked.

I would like to note that in mid March of 2026, I had a conversation with my Chief Deputy Jeff Christie. I had told Christie that after Grayson was fired, I felt that I would randomly get fired as well. I told Christie how I wasn’t happy at the office and how I felt unsafe and how I felt my job wasn’t secure. I explained to Christie how it was a feeling I couldn’t shake. Christie reassured my that Prouty wouldn’t fire me for no reason.

With the Sheriff election coming up on June 2nd, I looked into both candidates. The Sheriff candidates were the incumbent Sheriff Prouty and Presley Helm. After conversations I had with both candidates, I made the decision to support the incumbents opponent Presley Helm. I had “Helm for Sheriff” signs in my yard. I didn’t go around the Sheriff’s Office talking up Presley Helm, I didn’t post anything on social media. All I had was signs in my yard. On a random day in late April I received a call from Chief Deputy Christie. Christie had told me in this call that Prouty instructed him to tell me that I can NOT have a take home work vehicle if I have support signs for Presley Helm in my yard. I asked Christie for clarification and he said that as long as I have Presley Helm support signs in my yard, I am not allowed to have a take home work vehicle.

On June 23rd we had a deputy meeting, the meeting was at 4, but I had showed up late at approximately 4:25. The day prior I had told Chief Deputy Christie that I was going to be late, which Christie said would be okay. When I showed up, Chief Deputy Christie was standing in the hall. I asked Christie jokingly if they waited to start the meeting for me. Christie looking very upset explained no, and that Sheriff Prouty wanted to speak with me. So we went to the Chief Deputy’s office.

Sheriff’ Prouty started off with saying he had Rhonda with HR on the phone. Sheriff Prouty told me that my employment at the Union County Sheriff’s Office was from today on, terminated. Sheriff Prouty had placed two pieces of paper on the desk and explained that one paper was a termination and the other was a resignation. Prouty said I could choose either. When I asked Prouty why he was firing me, all he said was “you have your two options there”. I read both and with tears in my eyes I asked for a pen. Chief Deputy Christie gave me a pen; and I

signed the termination paper. I asked both of them which one wanted to tell my pregnant wife that I don't have a job to support her, both Christie and Prouty fell silent and looked at the ground.

This statement is in no way talking bad about my previous employer, but only telling the full truth. I was punished for my political belief and whom I supported during an election. I was fired for spear heading the union and being a union negotiator. I was fired for "not kissing the ring".