

Union County Sheriff



RICKY ROBERTS
SHERIFF

CHARLIE PHILLIPS
CHIEF DEPUTY

250 AMERICAN ROAD
EL DORADO, AR 71730

PHONE 870-864-1970
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October 11, 2018

RE: Union County Justice Facility Booking Photographs

It has come to my attention that shirts worn by individuals booked into our facility have been deemed offensive by certain individuals. It is not our intent, nor has it ever been our intent, to demean or disparage those who are innocent until proven guilty. I require that my staff treat everyone with the utmost dignity and respect. This being said, there are many times individuals enter our facility that lack proper attire during the booking process. In an attempt to provide those individuals with a sense of dignity, along with providing a photograph which is appropriate for public viewing, we provide these individuals with clothing to wear.

It has been brought to my attention that there are those who feel that one of our shirts of choice may be viewed as inappropriate. Please understand, I require that this office treats everyone equally and equitably within the law. We are not, and will not, be influenced by current political and social debates in the media. Also, these shirts were not purchased by the Sheriff's Office to be used for this purpose, but were simply on hand and available. We are charged with one simple duty; uphold the law, and keep the peace. This shirt is not only in use now, but has also been for several months prior. We have taken steps to rectify this issue and insure that this will never happen again. I understand the concern of those who may have found this offensive, and for that I apologize.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricky Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ricky Roberts, Sheriff
Union County