June 19, 2008

As a Commissioner in the City of North Port, I have seen first hand the importance of a good working relationship between our city and the Sarasota County Sheriff department. With all due respect to the other candidates, Tom Knight is the one I believe has the qualities needed to be most helpful to North Port and create the kind of partnership that we have long needed with the Sheriff's department. Most importantly, he brings a sense of enthusiasm and accountability to the entire county, which I find in these times of gloom and doom to be a fresh and optimistic difference.

I am not one to endorse candidates in any race. In fact, I try to distance myself from the political side of my job as it is. I was, however, incredibly impressed with Tom Knight's experience in leadership positions and with his ideas, which are creative yet sensible. I believe Tom can easily apply his knowledge from his former career and from working in cooperation with many other agencies to benefit our city and county.

When meeting with Tom Knight, what impressed me the most was that he is not a career politician, or someone who has aspired to be one. He has broad support from throughout the community in which he grew up. A look at his campaign treasurer's report will demonstrate this.

I am tired of having career politicians run our government in all aspects. It is time for "real people" to become elected to serve us, as Government was intended, and only we the voters can do this by choosing leaders with qualities and strengths that support the office for which they are running. We need to choose people with the ability to be grounded, and understand what you and I—the every day citizen—experience in our life, and what we expect of our elected officials. We deserve this; we deserve Tom Knight as Sarasota County Sheriff, and I am honored to offer my endorsement.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Vanessa Carusone