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SHERIFF

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

CONSOLIDATED CITY OF JACKSONVILLE DUVAL COUNTY

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Statement Regarding Walmart Stores Calls for Police Services

JSO continuously monitors crime statistics throughout Jacksonville and is aware that in some parts of Jacksonville calls for service to Walmart stores can be high and require our resources. The primary nature of the calls for service involved retail theft complaints – non-violent misdemeanors.

As part of our intelligence led community policing strategies, JSO closely monitors its resources and calls for service. We recognized this challenge with some of the Walmart stores, and about three years ago began working with their Regional Asset Protection senior manager, Mr. Ben Friedman. They were very responsive to us and shared our concerns relative to addressing the ongoing challenge of reduction of thefts in their stores. They have been very engaged in a cooperative working relationship with JSO and how to best address those apprehended, to prevent repeat offenses.

JSO and the State Attorney's Office have been involved with them in establishing a program to address those accused of non-violent misdemeanor crimes in the store and on their property. They are working with those accused of these crimes and in a "restorative justice" type program, similar to what we do through our civil citation process city wide. In addition to being rehabilitative, this program also has a notable impact on the reduction of required resources from JSO and the court system. Walmart media offices can provide you with more information on this.

It should also be noted that Walmart utilizes JSO off-duty officers during their "peak business" seasons, in addition to their own asset protection staff year round. Again, they would be best able to speak to you about the how the calls for police service on their properties are handled, in conjunction with the police response, and how they are addressing criminal activity at each location (including modifying operating hours at some locations, which I understand has been done.)

Undersheriff Pat Ivey

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