



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lee County Republican Assembly Calls for Immediate Suspension and Removal of Sheriff Carmine Marceno

Fort Myers, Florida – January 24, 2025

The Lee County Republican Assembly (LCRA) has passed a resolution demanding the immediate suspension and subsequent removal of Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno due to serious allegations of misconduct and his refusal to cooperate with ICE. The full resolution can be found and downloaded at <https://leerepublican.com/political-issues/carmine-marceno/>

Background: Recent investigations into Sheriff Carmine Marceno's activities have raised significant concerns. Accusations include money laundering, misappropriation of funds, and receiving expensive gifts, including a \$9,000 digital piano from Ken Romano, described as a "ghost employee" under a \$5,700-per-month consulting contract with the Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). Video evidence has also surfaced showing Sheriff Marceno accepting a large sum of cash from Romano without clear justification.

### Key Points of the Resolution:

- **Allegations and Investigations:** A federal grand jury is currently examining these allegations, with outcomes pending. Additionally, Ken Romano has filed a criminal complaint with the FBI against Sheriff Marceno.
- **Ethical and Legal Violations:** Sheriff Marceno is accused of not disclosing gifts as required by Florida ethics laws, potentially breaching Section 112.3148, Florida Statutes.
- **Governance and Law Enforcement:** The resolution underscores the authority of Governor Ron DeSantis under Article IV, Section 7(a) of the Florida Constitution to suspend or remove county officers for malfeasance or neglect of duty.
- **Community Trust:** The LCRA emphasizes the necessity for a Sheriff who upholds the highest standards of integrity, free from legal and ethical distractions.
- **Immigration Enforcement:** Sheriff Marceno's refusal to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on deportation policies is highlighted, especially in light of President Donald Trump's declared national emergency on illegal immigration and Governor DeSantis's call for legislative action.

### Resolution Actions:

- **Suspension Demand:** The LCRA formally requests Governor DeSantis to suspend Sheriff Carmine Marceno from office immediately.

- Removal Process: Calls for the initiation of formal proceedings for Marceno's permanent removal from office.
- Special Elections: Advocates for a special primary election in August 2025, followed by a special general election in November 2025, to elect a new sheriff.

LCRA Statements:

“Lee County residents deserve and require a chief law enforcement enforcer, unencumbered by unethical behavior, scandal, criminality, and Federal indictment.” Robert Valenta, LCRA President

"The residents of Lee County deserve leadership that is above reproach, transparent, accountable, and committed to the ethical administration of law enforcement, unencumbered by distractions. The allegations against Sheriff Marceno compromise the integrity of his office and undermine public trust," - Rachael Humes, LCRA Vice President

Other Statements:

“Every voter, and citizen in Lee County must have a chief law enforcer, who leads by example; we do not have that currently. The law is for us all and must be applied equally, without fear or favor.” – Mick Peters, Lee County Republican State Committeeman

Contact: For more information, please contact Robert Valenta

About LCRA: The Lee County Republican Assembly is committed to fostering transparency, and accountability within our government to ensure that elected officials serve with integrity and in the best interest of Lee County residents.

End of Release

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