

**To: Stephanie Kienzle**  
**The VotersOpinion.com**

**RE: The Truth About Racist Chief Robin Starks**

Dear Ms. Kienzle,

First off, thank you for all that you do. You've got guts and we need that kind of backbone now more than ever in this country. I'm writing to you as a cop—an Opa-locka cop who's been busting his ass for years trying to keep this city safe while being ignored, disrespected, and run into the ground by the same people sworn to serve it.

After over a decade of its police department being treated like second-class citizens, the City of Opa-locka finally hired a City Manager who gave a damn about us—the men and women in uniform. His name is Darvin Williams. And for once, we felt heard.

Before Mr. Williams came along, it was hell out here:

- No permanent police chief in years.
- No union contract in over a decade.
- Patrol cars with busted A/Cs—hell, you could see the asphalt through some of the floorboards.
- Our "station" was a dump we shared with an autism school.
- We had one of the lowest starting salaries in the entire damn state.

Yeah, people said Opa-locka had one of the worst crime rates in South Florida. But look at what we had to work with! You try fighting crime with duct tape and prayer.

Mr. Williams met with us—group talks, one-on-ones—and made us a deal: *"I'll get you what you need to be great cops. You make Opa-locka one of the safest cities in Florida."*

And he delivered. Within 90 days:

- We had a new police chief.
- A brand-new fleet of vehicles was ordered.
- He inked a deal with the PBA giving us a \$10K raise across the board!

By year's end, we had a new \$2.1 million police station under construction—with \$1 million of that coming from state grants. Yep, Mr. Williams went to Tallahassee and came back with the money we needed. The man put in the work.

And we did too. By Spring 2023, crime dropped to its lowest point in a decade. We went six months without a major crime. SIX MONTHS. In Opa-locka! That's unheard of.

But then came the poison: Robin Starks.

Mr. Williams, from what I've heard, was either tricked or forced to hire her by Mayor John Taylor. The Taylor family owed a favor to Starks' cousin, Dante Starks—a known crook who took the fall for former Mayor Myra Taylor. You can look up his record yourself. She couldn't keep a job at the County or Miami Gardens because she didn't know the first thing about being a cop, and worse—she brought a toxic, racist agenda with her.

We had a department full of veteran White officers with decades of service. Mr. Williams believed in merit and he rewarded officers based on performance, not playing racial politics. He proved it when he made sure that many of the White male veteran officers got pay raises when the new union contract passed. Many of us had already hit our pay cap, so what he did went above and beyond. He pushed for fair pay and equal treatment across the board.

Not Starks. She flat-out told a group of White male officers not to apply for promotions because she already had Black female officers picked out. She said it openly, no shame. We reported it. HR didn't do jack. So we went straight to Mr. Williams. He immediately called for an investigation with an independent third party investigator. The investigator *confirmed everything* that we shared. Mr. Williams then started the process to fire Assistant Chief Robin Starks.

Mr. Williams is very courageous. Many of us know stories of him shutting down the gravy train for many of our Commission. He's got some balls on him. I read your articles about how everyone was afraid to touch Chief Harvette Smith in North Miami Beach because she is a Black woman. It made me realize what a big deal it is was for Mr. Williams to initiate termination proceedings against Starks.

But, then the real corruption kicked in. After Starks accused Mr. Williams of racism and sexism — friggin' hilarious I know —, our oh-so-corrupt Commission and lawless City Attorney Burnadette Norris-Weeks rushed through a resolution stripping him of his power over investigations and giving it to the City Attorney. The very next day, the City Attorney shut down every single complaint against Starks. Cold.

What happened next was nothing but a political hit job. The Commission went after Mr. Williams for doing the right thing. Twice they tried to fire him and failed. Residents, employees, police officers, and even business owners came out outraged and nearly shut the proceedings down. The third time they pulled a fast one—called a special meeting on a random Tuesday afternoon, and by Wednesday night, he was gone. Just like that.

All to protect one corrupt, racist Assistant Chief.

But we didn't stay quiet. We reached out to the PBA. (Letter's attached.) Sadly, not much came of it. Meanwhile, Starks started telling people she was going to be Chief, and lo and behold, the Chief that Mr. Williams hired—Chief Kenneth Ottley—was fired. Starks said Mayor Taylor and Commissioner Ervin were behind it and that they'd been meeting with Interim City Manager Sha'mecca Lawson to make it happen. Next thing you know, she's the new Chief.

Now crime is back up. Morale is in the gutter. And the city is spiraling right back into the mess we worked so hard to pull ourselves out of.

Ms. Kienzle, if anyone can bring sunlight to this dumpster fire, it's you. I'm not ready to put my name out there yet—I've got a family and a job to protect. But I'll keep feeding you the truth. I've got more. And if you can get Chief Ottley or Mr. Williams to speak to you, they'll back up everything I've said.

We just want justice. We just want the city to care about us like Mr. Williams did.

Please don't let this get swept under the rug.

Sincerely,

**Anonymous Officer Wanting Justice**  
City of Opa-locka Police Department