

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: COURTHOUSE AND COURTROOM SECURITY FOR
CHARLOTTE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER COMPLEX

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 2.18 sets forth courthouse and courtroom security policy for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit; and

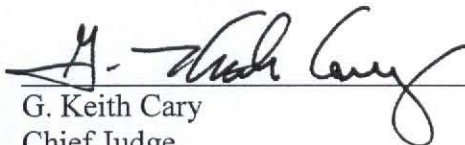
WHEREAS, paragraph 7 of Administrative Order No. 2.18 allows for special exemptions on a county-by-county basis; and

WHEREAS, upon consultation with the Circuit Administrative Judge for Charlotte County, it has been determined that a special exemption is appropriate for Charlotte County;

It is **ORDERED** that, in addition to the exemptions provided for by Administrative Order No. 2.18, an exemption shall also be made for sworn law enforcement officers wearing readily identifiable department issued uniforms who are conducting official law enforcement business within the Charlotte County Justice Center. All firearms must be in a visible law enforcement approved multiple step retention holster other than friction only. This law enforcement exemption shall be applied in accordance with the attached Exhibit "A", which is hereby adopted and shall be strictly construed and enforced.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida this 9TH day of

June, 2011.



G. Keith Cary
Chief Judge

History. -New

EXHIBIT "A"

The following policy will address the carrying of and security of firearms by law enforcement officials in the Charlotte County Justice Center:

1. Sworn law enforcement officers wearing readily identifiable department issued uniforms may carry their firearm(s) while conducting law enforcement business within the Charlotte County Justice Center. Every firearm must be contained and secured in a visible law enforcement approved multiple step retention holster other than friction only.
2. Sworn law enforcement officers not wearing a readily identifiable agency issued uniform may not carry their firearms while conducting official law enforcement business within the Charlotte County Justice Center. A sworn law enforcement officer not wearing such an identifiable department issued uniform along with an approved multiple step retention holster properly securing his/her firearm will be required to secure their firearm(s) at the security checkpoint prior to entering the Justice Center. For example, undercover officers, detectives in civilian wear, and any other civilian attired law enforcement officials would have to check their firearm(s) in at the door; the only exception to this would be in the event of a response to an emergency call within the Charlotte County Justice Center.
3. A law enforcement officer on official business that wishes to enter the courthouse complex with his/her firearm in accordance with the foregoing requirements should be prepared to show appropriate paperwork, as applicable, in regards to his/her business in the building (example given: subpoena, hearing notice, et cetera). Notwithstanding purported compliance with the foregoing, courthouse security personnel reserve the right to preclude entry with firearm(s) in the event of perceived non-compliance with the foregoing.

4. At no time will any sworn law enforcement officer, whether in uniform or in plain clothes, be permitted or authorized to carry their firearm while conducting any non-law enforcement related business within the Charlotte County Justice Center.

**** It is recommended that at no time whatsoever should any law enforcement officer wear any official department uniform or identifiers while conducting any personal business in the Charlotte County Justice Center.****

5. In addition to the foregoing, it will be the responsibility of each officer to adhere to their agency's individual regulations regarding personal and official court appearances. Each state and local law enforcement agency that wishes to allow its officers authorized to carry firearms to seek entry to the Charlotte County Justice Center with a firearm in conformance with the foregoing must prepare a set of department guidelines, policies, and procedures in regards to the carrying, use, and protection/securing of firearms in the Charlotte County Justice Center, a copy of which must be provided to the Sergeant of the Charlotte County Court Services Section of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Charlotte County Court Administrative Services Manager, Administrative Judge for Charlotte County, and the Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit. Said department guidelines, policies, and procedures should also include the manner in which officers shall be notified and educated with respect to this Order and attachment, as well as said department's enforcement/compliance procedures.

6. Nothing contained in this Order and attachment shall preclude any judge from the issuance of an order barring or otherwise prohibiting the introduction of firearms into their own individual courtroom.



Certified to be a true and correct copy of the original document on file.

This copy has no redactions
 This copy has been redacted pursuant to law.

Witness my hand and official seal this
13 day of JUNE, 2011.
BARBARA T. SCOTT, Clerk of Circuit Court

By Carm Pagan, Deputy Clerk