

PCSO Captain Larry Williams, Director of Law Enforcement 2007-2008

In July 2007, Captain Larry Williams, a 17-year veteran with the Polk County Sheriff's Office was appointed Director of Law Enforcement, by the newly appointed Interim City Manager Linda Culpepper.

Chief of Police Erik Sandvik was forced to relinquish his duties, amid pressure following a harsh employee morale survey that criticized the department's leadership. Sandvik retained his title and salary, but no longer had control of the day-to-day operations of the department.

Regarding this decision, Sheriff Grady Judd stated in a Lakeland Ledger article that Capt. Williams was "on loan" to the city at no cost, and was there to create stability, organization and bring the agency to an atmosphere of positive morale.

In July, 2008 the Bartow City Commission voted 3-2 to reject a proposal by Polk Sheriff Grady Judd to assume the law enforcement duties in Bartow, so the agreement between the city and the Sheriff's Office for Williams' services were not renewed.

Captain David Brooks, a 32-year veteran of the department was appointed as Interim Chief of Police, and Williams returned to the PCSO.

