



**WILLIAM F. BALKWILL, SHERIFF
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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February 2, 2005

Mrs. Pat Abrams
Sarasota K9 Search & Rescue

Dear Pat,

The Sarasota Sheriff's Office would like to express appreciation to members of the Sarasota K-9 Search & Rescue team for a job well done.

The South District Criminal Investigations Bureau had received information about a possible human burial site at a Sarasota County residence. In order to obtain a search warrant for the property, it was imperative that they corroborate some of the facts regarding specific gravesite location. We requested the assistance of your organization to do so.

On November 30, 2004 several members of your team met with detectives, crime scene and Medical Examiner's Office personnel at the property in question. Several K-9/handler teams conducted a search of the property and in short order were able to alert on a possible burial site. The alerts were in an area consistent with the information detectives had received. This produced the necessary evidence to obtain a search warrant. Subsequently, human remains were found in the exact spot where your K9's had alerted.

We would like to specifically thank the following K9's and handlers:

Pat Abrams K9 Noah K9 River
Joe Abrams
Tracy Ross K9 Brianna
Tami Treadway K9 Boo



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As you recall, your organization was instrumental in assisting our detectives in locating the burial site of a homicide victim in January 2004. As in that case, your team members again conducted their tasks in a thorough and professional manner. Their dedication and commitment is to be commended. They have made Sarasota K9 Search & Rescue a highly valued and respected resource to both this agency and the Sarasota community.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM F. BALKWILL, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Mottola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Mottola" clearly distinguishable.

Richard A. Mottola, Lieutenant
Criminal Investigations Bureau

WFB:RAM:mf