

## **Fraternal Order of Police call for sheriff's resignation from group**

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The Morris Heithcock Lodge 41 Fraternal Order of Police has called for Sheriff Ricky Headley to resign from the law enforcement organization after being charged with official misconduct and prescription drug fraud charges.

But in a letter yesterday, Headley's attorney says the efforts by the Lodge and President Adrian Breedlove are "just another attempt to embarrass Sheriff Headley so that 'certain' members of the Fraternal Order of Police can seek the office of Sheriff of Williamson County."

On Oct. 23, Breedlove sent a letter to Headley citing sections of the bylaws and constitution of the Lodge, which could "result in your being expelled from the Order." The sheriff could present a defense to the Lodge and then the membership could vote on whether to expel him or not, but a two-thirds majority.

"You may avoid these proceeding by resigning your membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, in writing, and save the Lodge the embarrassment and heartache of expulsion," Breedlove wrote.

Headley's attorney David Raybin turned Breedlove's words onto the Lodge, saying the embarrassment would be that of the Lodge. "I do agree that should you feel it necessary to expel Sheriff Headley from your organization that it would most assuredly be 'an embarrassment,'" Raybin wrote. "I would hope that the Fraternal Order of Police would not embarrass itself by such premature action particularly given the political flavor of all of this."

Raybin said while the sheriff has every intention of presenting a defense against the charges in a court of law "and not in front of his fellow law enforcement officers particularly those who wish him ill."

"My reluctance to having some sort of hearing is that the Deputy District Attorney who is prosecuting Sheriff Headley is also a prominent member of the Fraternal Order of Police," Raybin wrote. "I am not so foolish at allowing the District Attorney -- directly or indirectly -- have a free shot at my client." Raybin is referring to Deputy District Attorney General Derek Smith. Breedlove is an officer with the Brentwood Police Department, along with Capt. Tommy Campsey, a potential candidate for sheriff.

"Sheriff Headley, as noted has no intention of resigning from the Fraternal Order of Police and would only ask that his brother and sister officers give him the benefit of the doubt and that they should indulge in the presumption of innocence which we all enjoy," Raybin wrote.

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# FOP chapter moves to expel Williamson sheriff

*Group including deputies says he violated bylaws*

By MITCHELL KLINE  
*Staff Writer*

**FRANKLIN** — A Franklin-based chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, which includes Williamson County sheriff's deputies, has begun proceedings to expel Sheriff Ricky Headley.

It's a move that "reeks of politics," said Headley's attorney, David Raybin.

But the president of the chapter, Brentwood detective Adrian Breedlove, denies any political motives were involved when about 30 members voted earlier this month to expel Headley. The FOP chapter, which comprises more than 260 local law enforcement officers, has charged Headley with violating the group's bylaws and unbecoming conduct.

Not all members attend monthly meetings or vote, Breedlove said.

Headley faces 37 charges in Davidson and Williamson County associated with obtaining prescription drugs by fraud. He has two chances to present a defense to the FOP, according to a letter Breedlove sent him Oct. 23. If the sheriff hasn't come before the group by Dec. 18, he can be expelled by a vote.

In the letter, Breedlove wrote that Headley could "save the lodge the embarrassment and heartache of expulsion" if he quits the FOP.

"I have represented FOP lodges all over Tennessee for 20 years and I have never seen anything like this," Raybin said. "He is accused by nameless people and the result of their process seems preordained."

Breedlove said many FOP members have been "afraid to publicly voice their opinion" about Headley. He said deputies were "encouraged" to attend a rally supporting Headley on Oct. 11 at the Williamson County courthouse.

"The majority of law enforcement officers cannot support" Headley, Breedlove wrote in a press release. "We hope that the citizens of Williamson County will see through the attempt to paint Sheriff Headley as a victim because his comrades have seemingly turned against him."

Raybin responded Thursday to Breedlove, claiming there are FOP members who "covet Sheriff Headley's job and would like nothing better than to see him removed so that they can run for his office or be appointed."

Raybin told *The Tennessean* that Capt. Tommy Campsey, who oversees criminal investigations for the Brentwood Police Department, is one of those members.

### **Captain comments**

"The people close to me and my co-workers have known that I have had that as a possible goal when my career at Brentwood is over," Campsey said Friday. "It's something I've thought about for 10 years."

But Campsey said it was premature to say whether he actually will run.

The FOP chapter endorsed Headley in two elections, but Breedlove said he should step down or relinquish control of his department.

Raybin said the FOP exists to help its members in crises.

"If everyone who were charged with criminal offenses were tossed out of the (FOP) before they were given a jury trial I suggest the membership would be a good deal smaller," Raybin said in his letter to Breedlove.

Headley is slated to go to trial in Williamson County on four counts of official misconduct in July. No trial date has been set in Davidson County, where he faces 33 charges tied to an investigation of Brooks Pharmacy