

## **STATEMENT OF SHERIFF ERIC WATSON**

For more than a year, I have confronted numerous accusations from some who desire to have more control over county government and the operations of the Sheriff's Office. I have cooperated with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations and responded to anyone who has requested information from me which related to the questions which have arisen.

To my knowledge, I have not been questioned about the accusations which are contained in an indictment which I have not seen.

There are two very important messages I want the employees of the Bradley County Sheriff's Office and the people of Bradley County to know.

1. The leadership team and every employee of the Sheriff's Office will assist me as we continue to provide the best services possible to insure the safety and property of all citizens and visitors.
2. I will continue to cooperate with the proper authorities and respond appropriately to the allegations which have been made. I will waive arraignment, speedy trial and advise the court that I plea Not Guilty to the accusations.