

**OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY**  
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
BREVARD AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES

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Reply to: Seminole County

September 12, 2016

Jacob Engels  
14154 Bradbury Road  
Orlando, FL 32828

Kenneth Lewis, Esq  
605 East Robinson Street Suite 330  
Orlando, FL 32801

RE: State vs. RAY VALDES  
State Attorney Office Number: 1716M12229  
Agency Name: ALTAMONTE SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Agency Case Number: 1610001919  
Court Case Number:

I have reviewed the above file and determined that no charges will be filed at this time. Although there is sufficient probable cause to support the charges submitted by the Altamonte Springs Police Department, our burden of proof is much greater and requires not only that we be able to prove the charges beyond and to the exclusion of every reasonable doubt, but that we have a good faith basis to believe that there is a reasonable likelihood of success at a trial before a jury.

It is clear from reviewing the videos and statements from all involved that Mr. Engels was seeking a confrontation with Mr. Valdes in order to obtain a negative reaction which could be recorded. The political undertones in this case cannot be ignored nor can the fact that Mr. Engels hired an attorney and held a press conference within 24 hours of the incident. This is not to say that Mr. Valdes is blameless in this incident. As a long time public official he should understand that he is subject to questioning even if unwanted and especially when it involves behavior that is ethically questionable and fair game for public discussion.

This matter is more appropriately resolved in civil court where both parties can utilize their own private attorneys instead of utilizing the limited resources of the criminal court system and my office to obtain any relief for damages or injuries they may have incurred. I believe a jury would agree.

Sincerely,

PHIL ARCHER  
STATE ATTORNEY