

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

Viera Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Bldg. D
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 617-7510

Titusville Office
400 South Street
Suite D
Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 264-6933

Melbourne Office
51 South Nieman Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 952-4617

PHIL ARCHER
STATE ATTORNEY



Seminole County Office
P.O. Box 8006 • 101 Bush Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32772-8006
(407) 665-6000

Seminole Juvenile Center
190 Bush Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32773
(407) 665-5454

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