

# The Taking of Badge #148

**How did two top cops find themselves at opposite ends of a negotiating table? Chief Andrew Scott's department is still reeling from the backlash while Wayne Barton picks up the pieces in his decade-long crusade to save Pearl City.**

BY JUDY ALEXANDRA DIEDWARDO

**"MY FATHER STOOD UP FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN AND IT COST HIM HIS LIFE," WAYNE BARTON SAID. "BUT THAT DOESN'T DIMINISH THE LESSON HE TAUGHT ME TO STAND TALL FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN."**

#### ESCAPING THE PAST

Born Feb. 21, 1961 in Fort Lauderdale, Darrell Wayne Barton grew up in the crime-ridden neighborhood near the Blue Chip bar on North Deerfield Avenue where he witnessed everything from drug dealing to murder. His parents, Willie and Burnett Barton, were strict disciplinarians who believed they could save their children from bad influences.

Not all the Barton children heeded the message. Youngest son Frank has been in and out of jail throughout his life. In 1984, eldest son Lester refused to go to work, which led to an argument with his father and an all-out fight that ended when the young man grabbed a hammer and beat his father to death.

"My father stood up for what he believed in and it cost him his life," Wayne Barton said. "But that doesn't diminish the lesson he taught me to stand tall for what you believe in. My brothers were always in trouble so it didn't shock me to see what became of their lives. I never ran with them or their friends. I was lucky in that I stayed close to the people who were beacons and role models for me—people who took a personal interest in me."

Barton's penchant for the community service that would later win him national awards came at an early age. Childhood friend and neighbor Fred Davenport remembered Barton's loyalty to a disabled neighbor who had lost both legs.

"Wayne would take her shopping and to church each Sunday, and he did that for years," recalled Davenport, a Broward County sheriff's sergeant who said Barton inspired him to go into law enforcement. "Wayne's always been outgoing and extremely popular, especially

It was a sunny Tuesday morning in February when Wayne Barton dismantled his police uniform for the last time, removing the cluster of 16 medals for outstanding service that included a prized, 2-inch-long burgundy rectangle studded with stars—*Parade* magazine's 1988 Police Officer of the Year award.

Barton had first donned the uniform almost 20 years earlier. He was one of only a few African-Americans to be sworn in as an officer with the Boca Raton Police Department. His was a made-for-TV-movie kind of career. Then the glory days crashed to an end.

Over the past several weeks, the papers had been full of it: the larger-than-life small-town hero brought down amid his own allegations of racism in the department, a rape accusation against him and publicity about his long-ago indiscretions with a 17-year-old girl.

Heavy-hearted and squinting into the bright sun, Barton drove to the police station where he met quartermaster Claudia Reilly in the parking lot and surrendered the badge, firearms, uniforms and manuals he had tucked inside a plastic garbage bag earlier that morning. It was an unceremonious end to a career that began 19 years earlier in then-Chief Wayne Wright's office when he received badge 148.

with those kids in Pearl City. He has an amazing ability to bond with kids and then turn around and make things happen for them. It's incredible."

Barton began working with kids during his middle school years as a volunteer with Boca Raton's Parks and Recreation Department.

Nathaniel Bell, a biology teacher at Deerfield High School who coached Barton in basketball, referred to him with pride.

"Wayne was a very disciplined, articulate and mature young man who has exemplified those characteristics throughout his life," he said. Had Barton gone to college, "I shudder to think how far someone with his intelligence and humanity would have gone. But he was determined not to leave those kids in Pearl City."

Barton played semipro football for two years and aspired to go to college on a football scholarship. But a motorcycle accident injured his leg, ending his athletic career and dreams of college. He worked construction for a while before becoming a police aide in 1980 and a sworn police officer a year later.

#### THE CAREER

Barton took quickly to police work. Although he apparently wasn't fond of paperwork and was cited by supervisors for sloppiness and failing to turn reports in on time, he continually earned top ratings on his annual employee performance reviews.

But in 1983, a woman complained to police that her 17-year-old daughter had been involved in a sexual relationship with a cop. Following a police investigation, that officer was forced to resign.

The investigation also revealed that Barton, then 21 and single, also had had relations with the girl. Barton initially denied it, and later admitted having sex with her, although he said he didn't know her age. "I was young and dumb," he said recently.

Barton was reprimanded for lying. But considering his youth, lack of experience and overall good record, Capt. Frank Maguire recommended minimal disciplinary action against Barton—five days suspension without pay. Then-City Manager James Zumwalt concurred. And the incident blew over; six months later, Barton was named Officer of the Quarter for outstanding performance.

Amid the many commendations in his voluminous personnel file, there was just one other blemish: a formal reprimand in 1996 for distributing advertisements for a personal lawn service that indicated he was a police officer.

#### THE CALLING

By 1987, the 6-foot, 315-pound Barton found his true calling when he took on the task no one wanted. On his own time, he began policing Pearl City, the small African-American community near Federal Highway and Glades Road where drug dealers and gangs owned the streets. A supervisor recognized his commitment and made Pearl City his full-time detail.

Barton organized a Crime Watch program for residents. He got out of his police cruiser, talked to kids on the street, took the time to get to know residents. In so doing, he developed the model for what's now called community policing, since implemented by the Boca Raton Police Department, as well as oth-

ers around the country.

Barton's work didn't go unnoticed. Among many awards and citations he received for his work in Pearl City, he was named Boca's Officer of the Year in 1987. Three years later, President George Bush recognized Barton under his Thousand Points of Light program, which credited volunteers for tackling major social problems. Barton became the president's 241st Point of Light.

The recognition helped Barton enlist more support for his efforts. In 1991 he founded Barton's Boosters, a nonprofit organization that has raised more than \$200,000 for various programs helping disadvantaged families. With the help of area businesses, Barton began his "I Have A Dream" scholarship fund guar-

anteeing a college education to any teen from the city's only public housing complex, Dixie Manor, who graduated from high school. To date, 22 scholarships have been awarded.

By this time, the name Wayne Barton had become synonymous with civic responsibility, and he was a regular fixture at local charity benefits. His ability to raise money allowed him to open an after-school program in Dixie Manor in 1995 to tutor and encourage latch-key kids. And he began planning a 25,000-square-foot multipurpose youth study center near the complex.

#### TROUBLED WATERS

The police department was proud of its hero and his programs. Barton even was allowed to do things relating to Barton's Boosters while on city time, current Police Chief Andrew Scott told *The Palm Beach Post*.

But some cops were resentful.

Since joining the department, Barton had suffered racial slurs. He didn't report the incidents initially because he had just been hired. When the slurs persisted, he complained to then-Capt. Peter Petracco, but nothing seemed to happen.

In 1994, when he started receiving hate-filled neo-Nazi materials, in addition to the racially defamatory jokes, memos and altered news articles, Barton had had enough. He went to Petracco again, who now was chief. This time, Petracco seemed more receptive.

Three officers received disciplinary actions for inappropriate behavior.

Officer Jeff Bolender was suspended for eight hours after displaying a racially derogatory cartoon of the African-American television character Buckwheat in his office, keeping it there even after Barton told him the cartoon was offensive, records show.

Officer Shawn Miles was suspended for 24 hours after using racial epithets in speaking to a group of African-American children in Pearl City. Miles admitted using the word "nigger," but later denied it when writing his report of the incident, according to records.



Andrew Scott

**"SCOTT SAID THAT WAYNE COULD JUST TELL THE CITY HOW MANY ZEROS TO PUT ON THE CHECK," SWEETING RECALLED. "I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD FOR HIM TO BE SO FORWARD ABOUT IT."**

Officer Rudy Lacarda was fired after striking an African-American man with a metal flashlight while answering a call to aid Barton in Pearl City. The city contended Lacarda's actions against a civilian violated department regulations and that Lacarda failed to submit a report of the incident. However, arbitrator James J. Sherman later said Lacarda did not use excessive force and might have reacted to provocation by the civilian.

Since joining the force in 1988, Lacarda had received eight verbal reprimands and was suspended five times for violations ranging from sleeping on duty to missing off-duty details. Lacarda was reinstated two years later and recently promoted to sergeant.

Barton wasn't completely satisfied with the investigation's results. He thought the misdeeds of these officers represented just the tip of the iceberg.

Other African-American officers seemed to differ about racism within the department—at least according to their complaints and comments to local reporters.

Former officers Fred Blaise and Timothy Farrington filed unsuccessful complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in 1998 claiming they had been fired because they were black. Blaise also said his 1997 complaints to the department about racial slurs had been ignored.

But both had spotty performance records. Farrington had been disciplined several times and received unsatisfactory evaluations. Blaise had been reprimanded numerous times and was suspended five times for incompetence, insubordination and violating department procedures.

Two other African-American officers on the force said they saw the issue differently. "Racism is hard to put a finger on," said Sam Tatum, a road patrol officer since 1993, in an interview with *The Palm Beach Post*. "I try to avoid using it as an excuse for people's behavior." Eric Lawrence, an 11-year veteran agreed, adding, "This is not a racist department."

Racism didn't seem to be at the top of the list of worries for Petracco at this time; He was in the midst of his own scandal involving downgrading of property crime statistics; in cases in which there was no arrest, felonies had been downgraded to misdemeanors. One top officer already had been fired, and when the city manager learned that Petracco was aware of the practice and had done nothing, he also was forced to resign.

Enter Chief Andrew Scott, who took over in October 1998. Hired as the reformer following the crime stats scandal, Scott initially was unaware that racial tensions existed within the department.

Scott, who had worked his way up the ranks from police officer to assistant chief with the North Miami Beach Police Department, was no stranger to racial tensions, said Linda Loizzo, North Miami Beach's deputy chief. She recounted an incident involving a white officer who was forced to resign after harassing an African-American dispatcher.

"Andy stood up for [the dispatcher] immediately and refused to tolerate the officer's behavior. The officer was given the opportunity to resign and then tried to sue the department. But when the union sided with the officer, who eventually lost the battle, Andy found himself

up against a formidable adversary,” she said. “But he never backed down because he knew what had happened was wrong.”

Born and reared in Levittown, New York, Scott was the product of an Irish-Catholic, blue-collar family. His father was maître d’ for a large catering house. His mother was a housewife rearing Scott and his three sisters. The family moved to Miami when Scott was 15.

“I had a very good upbringing in a very warm and loving house that clearly demonstrated respect for all people,” he said. “As I got older and started reading biographies I found Abraham Lincoln to be my historical hero.”

He had always thought about a career in law enforcement, “but it wasn’t until my third year in college that I knew it was my place in life where I could make a difference,” said Scott. “And I believe it’s a calling. I even tell young officers that they shouldn’t be here if they think it’s a job.”

Scott aspired to become chief, and was even offered that position by the Ormond Beach department in the late 1990s. But he declined, not wanting to move his family that far. When the opportunity arose in Boca Raton he jumped at the chance. He knew morale would be low following the crime stats scandal, but he was unaware of all the problems he was about to inherit.

“I didn’t anticipate the managerial problems internally but have always been one to persevere obstacles,” he said. “And that perseverance clearly helped me through the trials and tribulations that I’ve incurred in the last 18 months. I’ve also had the assistance of several able and loyal personnel in the organization.”

During his most difficult times, Scott reflected on a framed letter hanging on

his office wall from the State Department outlining a series of World War II battles in the South Pacific in which his father served as a Navy medic.

“I looked at what he endured and realized that my problems were small.”

#### TOO LITTLE TOO LATE?

A month into his new position, Scott found out about the undercurrent of racism plaguing the department. He chose to meet the problems head on. His first stop was Wayne Barton’s office where Barton presented him with an entire folder of racist cartoons, derogatory literature, and altered newspaper articles and memos. Barton said that since 1991 his colleagues had gotten away with putting 17 pieces of racist literature in his department mailbox, as well as openly displaying such matter on department bulletin boards and in their cubicles.

There was a clipping of President Bush celebrating Barton as one of his Thousand Points of Light; below Barton’s picture the word “light” was typed over with the word “shit.” An altered 1992 news clipping said, “niggers will hate Jews until they’ve wiped out the Jews.” A cartoon was captioned: the “relationship between a negro and an ape.” A newspaper photo of Barton with kids from one of his programs included the altered caption: “Look at the smiling monkey,” and “Officer Barton shows kids how to invest before they go to jail... get them while they’re baby niggers.” Another altered cartoon said, “African-American officers Eric Davis, Errol Hibbert and Wayne Barton can’t take a plane to Jamaica because their lips will explode at 1,000 feet.” Typed in the margin of a 1994 news article was: “Whites who go to any church worship black magic niggers,” and every preacher and priest since Christ will burn in hell, and referred to Pope John Paul as a “devil Jew” and “the worst man of God in the history of the world.” A 1997 headline about the Martin Luther King holiday was replaced with: “Satan Niggers Bring Death and Destruction Upon Whites.” And as recently as January 1999, after receiving an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 174

honorary degree from Florida Atlantic University, Barton found two altered newspaper articles, one with the typed caption, "but you are still a nigger," and the other with, "nigger in charge."

Scott was "really upset," by the clippings, Barton remembered. He demanded an internal investigation, assigning Deputy Chief Philip Sweeting to head it.

"Scott said that Wayne could just tell the city how many zeros to put on the check," Sweeting recalled. "I thought it was odd for him to be so forward about it."

When asked about Sweeting's recollection of this conversation, Scott declined to comment.

#### THE FUSE IS LIT

A month after Barton filed his racism complaint, Barton, Scott and Sweeting met to review the allegations.

Then, two days later, Dec. 9, 1998, the bombshell: A Boca Raton woman accused Barton of rape. In a 23-page tape-recorded interview with Lt. Sarah Widmann who conducted the investigation, Kimberly Singer, 27, said she had been friends with Barton for 10 years and intimately involved with him the last two. They saw each other frequently while Barton was on a detail and often had lunch and dinner together, she said. Other times they would spend evenings at Singer's home.

When she refused to have sex with Barton while he visited her at her home on Nov. 20, 1998, Singer told Widmann he raped her and held her against her will.

Barton denied the accusations, claiming Singer had a severe drinking problem and was a chronic liar. In his 20-page sworn statement, he told Widmann his relationship with Singer was strictly professional, that she did some of his typing, which is why he had a key to her home. Barton did admit spending the night at Singer's home on Nov. 20, but initially denied having sex. Later in his interview with Widmann he said Singer might have had sexual relations with him while he was asleep.

Singer told Widmann Barton's wife Cassandra knew of the affair and called Singer numerous times. "She would say, 'I know you're f—king my husband,' and I would tell her I didn't know what she was talking about." Singer would try to placate Cassandra by telling her Barton was a good man who would never cheat on her. "I probably should have hung up when she would call," said Singer, "because sometimes she'd call me every, like it seemed, every half an hour one night, and I eventually told her that I was going to call the cops if she didn't stop harassing me. But she said, 'No you won't.' And she was right, I wouldn't." Singer also said Cassandra once threatened to kill her, saying, "I'm tired of this s—t."

Singer also said she had received positive results on a pregnancy test a few days prior and believed Barton to be the father. But when she realized Barton was not leaving his wife, she wanted to end their relationship, according to the police transcript.

"He seemed excited about the baby but I wanted all or nothing, meaning he was to leave his wife and be with me like

"Officer Wayne Barton has in no way harmed or threatened harm to me," she wrote. "There was no rape, no holding me against my will, no forceful activity. There has never been any intimacy between us. We have been nothing but friends for the past 10 years."

Singer continued: "When I reported the accusations against Wayne Barton I was under the influence of alcohol and other mental distress and my life had taken a turn in the wrong direction. I apologize for any inconvenience I may have caused and am willing to give a new statement."

Prosecutors now had no criminal case against Barton and declined to pursue charges. But Scott continued his investigation.

In April Scott got a subpoena for Barton's cellular phone records; Singer had claimed that after she changed the locks at her home, Barton spent 45 minutes on Dec. 5 banging on her door and making repeated calls from his cell phone. Her brother told police he was at the house and backed up her story. But Widmann's investigation determined

**POLICE REFERRED THE RAPE CASE TO THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BUT ON FEB. 24, 1999, SINGER CHANGED HER STORY: "THERE WAS NO RAPE, NO HOLDING ME AGAINST MY WILL, NO FORCEFUL ACTIVITY."**

he kept promising," Singer told Widmann.

Both Singer and Cassandra Barton declined to comment.

Police referred the rape case to the State Attorney's Office, but on Feb. 24, 1999, Singer changed her story. In a full-page letter to Scott, she attributed her "irresponsible behavior" to having an alcohol problem.

"no patterns of calls to Singer occurred."

Sweeting, who since has had his own falling out with Scott, said Scott was wrong in continuing to pursue the investigation against Barton: "The investigation should have been dropped the moment she recanted," Sweeting said. "I was in Scott's office when he was talking to the city's outside attorney [Bob Norton] on the speaker

CONTINUED ON PAGE 176

phone who cautioned him against doing anything to shut Wayne down in response to his racism complaint. He said, 'The press will eat you up.' But Scott was determined to slam Wayne."

Norton, partner with the Miami firm of Allen Norton & Blue and the city's outside attorney for several years, vehemently denied Sweeting's characterization of that conversation.

"That is utterly ridiculous," he said. "When dealing with issues related to Wayne Barton, I certainly cautioned the chief as to any course of action that we might take, knowing that the media would have a field day because of the organization Barton supported and the image he projected. But no, Scott never dreamed of taking any retaliatory action based upon Barton's race and I would take a polygraph on that."

Norton insisted Scott's sole concern in their talks was to be sure he handled things lawfully.

"The truth is, Scott thought the world of Wayne," Norton said. "Imagine having an African-American officer in your department who is so highly regarded and respected as Wayne. Who would want for anything more?"

But Sweeting claimed the chief had changed his attitude toward Barton "once he sized up whose side he wanted to be on—Wayne's or the union's....[Union president] Rick Barnett despised Wayne."

Scott declined to comment about Sweeting's characterization of his actions regarding Barton. Barnett did not return phone calls.

Sweeting, Petracco's assistant chief and the acting chief before Scott came on board, retired in October 1999 after 26 years with the department. After a rocky period, Scott banned him from the department for three months before his retirement.

"He did it for show, to slam me for siding with Wayne," said Sweeting, who put Scott and the city on notice in February of his intent to file a lawsuit for defamation of character.

Loizzo, of North Miami Beach, laughed at the inference that Scott would have sided with the police union or anyone, especially in light of the backlash he weathered when defending the rights of his Miami dispatcher.

"Andy's position in Miami made him extremely unpopular with both the union and the officers who sided with the accused officer in that case," she said.

"But Andy is his own man who stands behind what he believes is fair and true. That's why he is so well-respected," she said. "And I also know Wayne Barton and can attest to his character as well. He's a remarkably accomplished man who any department would be proud to have among them."

Loizzo speculated that Scott inherited a no-win situation that had been brewing long before his arrival, and that both men found themselves in an unfortunate standoff.

#### THE FINAL STRAW

On May 24, 1999, Scott delivered a memo to Barton with the conclusions of his racism complaint. While investigators believed Barton, they could only place blame with two officers.

Detective Guy DiBenedetto admitted to having a hand-drawn picture of cartoon character Bart Simpson posted in his office cubicle with the face blackened and the name "Barton Simpson" written beneath it. DiBenedetto admitted the cartoon referred to Barton, but claimed it wasn't racially motivated.

Officer Art Kissel was heard by three other officers calling residents of Barton's community policing area "niggers." Kissel denied the charge.

Scott told Barton that memos elaborating DiBenedetto's and Kissel's violations would be placed in their personnel files, but since the incidents happened in the early 1990s, too much time had passed for more serious punishment.

Kissel was fired later that month after failing a psychiatric fitness exam.

In a separate memo delivered on the same day, Barton learned the conclusions of Singer's complaints.

Despite her recanting the rape allega-

tion, police officials found Barton had violated department policy. Barton was reprimanded for conduct unbecoming an officer, conduct unbecoming a city employee, violation of the department's standard of conduct, and improper use of employee property or vehicles for his on-duty liaisons with Singer both while driving and/or parked together around town and at her home.

So much bad news in one day proved to be a crushing blow for Barton. Angered by the lack of response to his past complaints, he was counting on Scott to put an end to almost 20 years of racial degradation. But Scott, like his predecessor, failed him, he thought. Amid the barrage of racially derogatory mail that continued despite Scott's investigation, Barton filed a lawsuit in federal court claiming the city, Petracco and Scott had violated his civil rights. He also filed discrimination complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Florida Commission on Human Relations.

City officials reeled. Mayor Carol Hanson and other Barton critics said he made the racism claims to deflect attention from the rape accusation, *The Palm Beach Post* reported. "Wayne Barton knows me well enough to know that all he had to do was walk across the street and say, 'I can't take this anymore,'" Hanson said, according to the transcript from a Jan. 7 closed council session. "All of the city council members just about think he walks on water. The man has a lot of friends and a lot of power, and I don't know why he didn't come forward earlier."

But none of the council members seemed willing to fight Barton's lawsuit in court, according to the council session transcript, which was released after the suit was settled.

"In this case we have DNA evidence against us that's extremely damaging," said council member David Freudenberg. "Those little cartoons, those don't read well in any courtroom."

In another closed session the following week, Hanson was critical of the handling of



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 176

# Sensational Savings During Glades Plaza's Renovations

AS THE WALLS  
**GO UP**  
OUR PRICES  
**GO DOWN**

## Hilda Werth

In the "New" Glades Plaza  
2200 West Glades Rd • Boca Raton  
561.368.9660



## Brown's Bountiful Baskets

Custom-Made Gift Baskets  
For Any and All Occasions

We Deliver the Gift Remedy

98 South Federal Highway  
Boca Raton, FL 33432

(561) 395-2083  
(800) 354-9422  
fax (561) 391-5133

the matter, saying, "I read the depositions in this case, the incidents that preceded the lawsuit, and I just want to make it clear that I think in the future you as city manager need to get a better handle on internal investigations," she said. "Obviously, it's going to be the city that erred and we're going to have to pay for our misdeeds."

Hanson did not return phone calls.

Barton also received a handwritten letter from council member Bill Glass asking him to recant his accusations, suggesting Barton "would be a bigger man in the eyes of the community if he publicly apologized to the chief, his fellow officers and the community for his behavior regarding the anonymous petty acts of racial hostility."

He suggested Barton issue a press release that also include: "I realize that striking back against these racial hostilities and filing a lawsuit against the city is only hurting the community and the kids."

### THE FIGHT IS OVER

Lacking the energy to fight in court, nor the confidence that justice ever would be served, Barton agreed to settle the lawsuit. Under the terms of the settlement agreement—which prohibit the parties from commenting—Barton would retire and the city would pay him \$275,000.

The city, Scott and Petracco admit no wrongdoing and are immune from future lawsuits or other claims stemming from Barton's complaints.

Barton's legal fees mounted to \$93,000, and taxes on the settlement were \$65,000. His pension totals about \$33,000 a year. He also received about \$15,000 in unused vacation and sick pay.

Of the settlement amount, Barton contributed \$182,000 to Barton's Boosters.

But the storm hadn't subsided. In a Feb. 7 column, *Boca Raton News* Editor-in-Chief Ronald C. Smith was sharply critical of Barton, calling on donors to withdraw funding for the proposed study center. He said Barton's actions as a police officer had disgraced the city, the *News* reported.

"Ron Smith has put a shotgun to the heads of all the children I have helped and all of the people who have helped me," Barton told the newspaper. "He has pulled the trigger with what he wrote."

Not long after, Smith claimed he had been misunderstood, and he underscored his support for the proposed study center at a board meeting in Dixie Manor. Smith also said the paper would lead a fund-raising campaign to match Barton's donation of \$182,000 from his settlement.

Barton said the dispute ended when the two men met after the column appeared. "He was a real professional man who showed me he had a soft side," Barton told the *Boca Raton News*. "He told me he was sorry for the pain he had caused me and the organization."

"The way I see it, people who were looking for a reason not to give were let off the hook, while it just brought those of us who are committed even closer," he said. "The Countess [Henrietta de Hoernle] said that she supports our organization now more than ever and increased her \$750,000 donation to \$1 million, while Dick and Barbara Schmidt donated \$175,000."

In all, Barton has raised \$1.4 of the \$5 million needed for the 25,000-square-foot youth study center near Dixie Manor. "We're moving forward with our fund-raising efforts and are continuing to help empower kids that are less fortunate," Barton said.

And Barton's wife, Cassandra, remains his most ardent supporter. "I always encouraged Wayne to do what he believed was right, knowing that I would be at his side no matter what," she said.

A police officer with the Palm Beach County School Board, Cassandra Barton met her husband at a law enforcement conference 13 years ago. They married in 1993.

"When all hell broke loose and so many hurtful things were being said, I thought of all the uncounted hours that he gave to the department, all the phone calls at 2 a.m. to handle situations in Pearl City when there were other officers available, all the kids that he would bring home when they had nowhere else to go.

No one wanted to remember what kind of man Wayne Barton is," she said.

In Chief Scott's office it's business as usual as he strives to get his department back on track. He told reporters he plans to remake his command staff, which consists of one deputy chief, four captains, eight lieutenants and 19 sergeants. He views it as his chance to start clean, the coming exodus giving him a chance to keep his promise to promote minorities.

He also has instituted ethics training and increased community policing programs to help break down barriers between his officers and the people they serve.

"My intention was and still is that the Boca Raton Police Department should be the beacon of light for law enforcement and a premiere agency that others would want to emulate," he said. "It's a goal which we're slowly but surely achieving."

#### CROSSROADS

In July 1999, Boca police supervisors went through a training session on proper workplace behavior, ethics and race relations. It was conducted by Pat Kelly, police chief in Medley in Miami-Dade County, who also chairs the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission and oversees training of all police and correction officers statewide.

Kelly said he was surprised to learn that the department has no minority officers among 31 supervisory positions, and only two blacks promoted to sergeant in its 74-year history.

"Andy [Scott] may have been the change-agent in a situation where it wasn't time to address these problems until he came on board," Kelly later speculated. "Racial discrimination is a communication problem that when supervisors overlook minor things, they become the norm. The organization then gets completely out of whack with reality," he said. "When you solve problems when they are small they don't become big."

Likewise, Kelly wasn't surprised by the backlash against Barton. "Do you think people on the bus with Rosa Parks were saying, 'You go girl?' No, they wanted her to sit down." ♦

THE WAIT IS OVER.



RADIUS

7000 West Palmetto Park Road Bank of America Plaza,  
Ste. 102 Boca Raton 33433 Tel 561.392.3747