

didn't make it back home.

## Sheriff needs to take action

We were surprised and disappointed when we learned last week that a sexual harassment lawsuit had been filed against Chief Deputy Terry Tichava, the second in command at the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, and that Kendall County Board members had agreed to settle the lawsuit for \$188,000.

The chief deputy is trusted with a great amount of authority and power over dozens of employees and thousands of Kendall County residents. It's a sad day when it appears that such trust has been broken.

Tichava has not been formally charged with any wrongdoing, but the fact that the lawsuit was settled out of court does not strongly suggest an air of complete innocence. We believe the seriousness of the accusations and information in the court files has, unfortunately, tainted the Sheriff's Office and the men and women who work in that office and could make their job of investigating sensitive crimes more difficult.

Kendall County residents, as taxpayers, pay the chief deputy's salary, and we feel reasonably certain that said taxpayers do not feel comfortable giving their funds to someone who has displayed the behavior that the chief deputy has been accused of- whether or not it is legally defined as sexual harassment.

While we appreciate the years of service Tichava has given to the county, we believe that the best course of action from Kendall County Sheriff Richard Randall is to remove Tichava from duty as the chief deputy so that the Sheriff's Office, and Kendall County, can move on.

Some sexual harassment training has been available to employees in the Sheriff's Department, but it appears that more- mandatory- programs are needed. The Sheriff needs to make perfectly clear to his employees and to taxpayers that he won't tolerate this type of behavior. Drafting and making public a strong sexual harassment policy- with clear consequences for violators- would emphasize that resolve.

**Contact your  
representative...**