



BARBALUNGA FOR SHERIFF

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“Time For Change – Justice That Works”

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BARBALUNGA SAYS THAT SHERIFF BOWLER MISLED THE PUBLIC MONDAY NIGHT REGARDING FANKLIN COUNTY FEMALE INMATES

Berkshire County—Alf Barbalunga, a Democratic candidate for Berkshire County Sheriff, says that during the August 15 [PCTV debate](#), Tom Bowler misinformed the public, beginning at the 11:50 mark, when he stated that, “Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan took the women back to his facility because he was the first one to start with the MAT the medications assisted treatment program.” Then he adds **“and, ironically enough, he is sending women back to Hampden County to Chicopee because he cannot provide certain services or special needs gender specific needs for those females.”**

“This is categorically untrue. Franklin County does not send female inmates to Chicopee. This is either a bluff made up on the fly, or Tom Bowler is once again misinformed about serious matters affecting his administration,” says Barbalunga.

“WAMC media has fact checked Bowler’s statement, and unfortunately and disappointingly the facts do not back his claim. I was shocked he would say something contrary to everything I had understood about Franklin County’s female inmate program. The response to WAMC makes it clear that Tom Bowler misinformed the public while defending his position to send women to Chicopee, and voters deserve to know they were misled. Franklin County is not sending their female inmates to Chicopee, and they have no plans to do so,” says Barbalunga.

We would like all additional media following this campaign, as well as the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office, to please correct the record, so that on September 6th the public can make a decision about whom to vote for, based on the actual truth.

Additionally, during the debate, the sheriff said he asked inmates in Chicopee if they wanted to return to Berkshire County and was told NO. That was a clever leading question; what he didn’t say was whether they WOULD want to come back IF the sheriff’s jail was as nice as the one in Chicopee.

“I think to that question, they would say YES,” says Barbalunga. “Women in Chicopee have been saying for years the distance is difficult for their families and puts them at a legal disadvantage. Offer them a state-of-the-art facility in Pittsfield, and of course they would want to return.”

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