

# David M. Hackett

Letter of Recommendation: Michael Scott Davidson

As Michael Scott Davidson's assigning editor for two years at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, I worked daily with Scott and I can testify that he is a remarkably talented journalist.

Scott has tremendous drive and ambition, exemplified by his investigative report on abuses by the North Port Police K-9 unit, which received national attention. Scott has the competitiveness and hustle to be first with a breaking story, and the multi-media reporting chops to tell that story across multiple platforms, starting with social media and including words, photos and video. Scott is an extremely gifted writer whose narrative voice commands his audience to keep reading. Scott is also highly intelligent and deeply curious, a quick study who is able to parachute into almost any story and quickly ascertain what it's about and why it merits attention.

Scott's beat involved coverage of North Port, Sarasota County's largest and fastest growing city. He was new to government reporting, but approached it like an engineer, figuring out how various bodies worked, which leaders held the biggest levers to power and where the flow of money and services reached the citizens, and where it did not.

Most of all, Scott is a man of enormous integrity, reflected in his attention to accuracy and fairness. He rarely commits a factual error because he painstakingly triple-checks every name, title, statistic and quote.

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