

Joint Statement from Steve Spodyak and Katie Spodyak

We are issuing this statement to address a series of deeply troubling, false, and malicious claims that have been circulated about our family in recent months.

The statements addressed herein were made by Park County Manager Lucas Meyer and include serious accusations of domestic violence, financial misconduct, corruption, and other unethical and criminal behavior. These claims are unequivocally false.

As outlined in a formal legal complaint, this situation stems from an ongoing dispute in which Mr. Meyer attempted to illegally assert authority over the Park County Sheriff's Office — authority that he simply does not possess. When his efforts were appropriately denied, he became extremely upset and the situation escalated into what has become a pattern of retaliatory conduct by Mr. Meyer that crossed constitutional, legal, moral and ethical standards.

Mr. Meyer knowingly and recklessly spread false statements to deputies, county employees, and other members of the community. The statements included fabricated allegations of domestic violence, criminal conduct, misuse of public funds, and corruption. Additionally claims regarding Steve's alleged professional and personal activities including, but not limited to, a completely false allegation that Steve was nearly removed from the FBI National Academy for misconduct.

We want to be absolutely clear!

There have never been any instances of domestic violence in our home or against each other nor has Steve ever been arrested for domestic violence. There has never been any embezzlement, corruption, or misuse of public funds. There has never been any criminal conduct as alleged by Mr. Meyer. At no time, other than after hearing false allegations and rumors by Mr. Meyer, has Steve's character been called into question. Any suggestion otherwise is not only untrue — it is reckless, hurtful, damaging, and irresponsible. As a result of Mr. Meyer's spreading of lies about our family, we have suffered publicly by being ridiculed and shamed. It has become a struggle and embarrassing for our family to attend social functions or to be recognized in public.

Mr. Meyer's statements were made with reckless disregard for the truth and with the intent to harm our reputations, undermine our public trust, embarrass us, cause us stress in our daily lives, and interfere with both our personal and professional responsibilities as well as Steve's ongoing campaign for Sheriff of Park County. The timing and nature of these allegations raise serious concerns about the misuse of Mr. Meyer's public position and authority.

The personal impact has been significant on the entire family. Katie has been falsely portrayed as a female who endures, tolerates, and fails to report domestic violence - something that is both untrue and deeply distressing. Steve has faced false accusations that strike at the core of his personal and professional beliefs and his integrity as a father, husband, and law enforcement officer. No family should have to endure this simply because a county manager gets upset because he lacks authority over the local Sheriff's Office.

Beyond the personal harm, this situation raises broader concerns about Mr. Meyer's deliberate spread of misinformation within our local government and law enforcement community.

We are pursuing appropriate legal actions to address these false and defamatory statements, including claims for defamation and extreme and outrageous conduct, and to ensure that Mr. Meyer is held accountable for his reckless and damaging actions.

Despite these unwarranted and unwelcome attacks, we remain dedicated to our values, family, openness, integrity, and the people of Park County. We remain confident that the truth will prevail and that the facts will ultimately speak for themselves.

We ask the public to be cautious, to seek facts over rumors, and to allow the legal process to move forward.

Truth matters. Morality matters. Accountability matters. And, we will see this through.

— Steve and Katie Spodyak