

01-31-2025

To: The Honorable Mayor Gary Iocco and City Council Members of Red Wing,

My name is Joshua Stehr and I want to make you aware of a situation that occurred to me in the hopes that it does not happen to anyone else in the future.

On [Saturday] 12-10-2022 I was an employee of the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office and sent an email from our county email system to our administration and our patrol deputies that was not favorable to the Administration regarding a local officer involved shooting. It is likely that Sheriff Marty Kelly read the email on Monday the 12th and on Tuesday the 13th I received a call from a Red Wing Police Department Sargent advising me he was writing up an official report for a harassment complaint against me for texting the Sheriff but curiously admitted he was not investigating any crime and advised me to stop texting the Sheriff's personal phone. It should be noted that it was about a month prior to this that I had last sent a text message to Marty. This timeline alone clearly suggests strongly that me being contacted by the RWPd and a report being written was an inappropriate act on the part the Sheriff in an attempt to retaliate and an act of defamation. The reason I believe this is because I had supported him in his campaign for Sheriff after I did not receive enough votes in the primary election in 2018 and gave all my support to him against Paul Gielau and Marty then won that election but in 2022, I dropped out of the race and instead supported Josh Hanson and Marty Kelly was very angry about that.

I was an employee of the Sheriff's Office at the time of these texts/emails so normal protocol would have been for the Sheriff to either tell me directly to stop texting him either by responding via text to do so or in person at work as I was a Sheriff's Deputy at the time or by having my supervisor talk to me about it. None of this was followed and he instead either coerced or pressured using his position to involve the RWPd/City of Red Wing unnecessarily for his personal vendetta against a citizen of Goodhue County and one of his own deputies.

When law enforcement investigates harassment complaints, we always ask the person being "harassed" if they have asked the person to stop. It should also be noted that Marty Kelly and I had been friends before this for years and none of the texts were any type of threat...likely another reason the RWPd said they were not investigating a crime.

I filed an official complaint with the RWPd in October of 2023 and nothing was done which I find as no surprise as an entity investigating itself likely will find no fault in itself. I attached this letter to this email.

Here is what I want changed so this does not happen again in the future:

- Policy and Training Change
 - It should be common sense...but if the Sheriff of Goodhue County requests a member of the RWPd to "investigate" a member of the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office for a non-crime...simple questions should be asked to determine if it is necessary or legal first and why normal protocol isn't being followed.

- No single member of the RWPD should be able to decide on their own to "assist" the Sheriff in retaliation against a member of the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office and put the City of Red Wing in precarious legal waters
- If any request like this is made in the future it must go through the chain of command first to make a decision if the RWPD would even get involved at all and maybe even have to go through the Council first before any official action is taken

Please advise on how to proceed to get this change addressed.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Joshua Stehr

RE: RWPD Report/Incident #202200015554