

10-03-2023

Description of Concern/Complaint for Red Wing Police Department

RE: Sgt. Brian Metling and Goodhue County Sheriff Marty Kelly – ICR#202215554

- On 11-18-2022 I sent a text to Marty Kelly's personal cell phone
- On Saturday 12-10-2022 I sent an email to Goodhue County Sheriff's Admin about an OIS that occurred in Goodhue County via my County email as I am a Sheriff's Deputy with Goodhue County.
- On Tuesday 12-13-2022 I received a voicemail from Sgt. Brian Metling warning me to not contact Sheriff Kelly's personal cell phone.
- On 12-14-2022 I sent an email to Sgt. Brian Metling requesting a call back about the situation.
- On 12-16-2022 I received a call back from Sgt. Metling. Sgt. Metling said that he would be documenting the situation via a report and warned me again to not contact the Sheriff via his personal cell phone.
- On 12-20-2022 I sent an email to Sgt. Metling advising him of the reason that the Sheriff was retaliating against me and requesting it be sent to the county attorney to review for charges against the Sheriff.

The various concerns here are as follows:

- I am a Goodhue County Sheriff's Deputy and have been one for the past 23 years.
- When this occurred, I was one of the Sheriff's Deputies.
- The Sheriff should have known to handle this internally and not involve an outside agency
- The Sheriff should have sent me a text asking me to not contact him on his personal cell or should have talk with me directly as one of his deputies or through the chain of command and had my supervisor discuss it with me.
- I asked Sgt. Metling several times if he was investigating a crime or if I could be charged with a crime and he said no. This fact alone seems to me that it would make it obvious what was happening was not legal and potentially an abuse of power.
- The Sheriff was clearly upset about the email I sent on Saturday the 10th...he likely read it on Monday the 12th and the next day after that I received a call from Sgt. Metling about something that happened almost a month prior to that.
- Based on the timeline and the contested election the previous year this was clearly another attempt at defamation of my character and the RWPd and Sgt. Metling should have taken this into account before proceeding with assisting the Sheriff in this.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this situation. My goal here is to bring to light what is in the dark and to hopefully prevent this from happening to another Goodhue County employee in the future. There is a pattern of this type of behavior going on in Goodhue County not only with the Sheriff but other higher-ranking officials as well and it needs to stop.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Josh Stehr