

From: Scott Rieckmann, Fire Chief, Town of Clayton <FireChief@CLAYTONWINNEBAGOWI.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 6:12 AM
To: Kelly Wisnefske, Administrator, Town of Clayton <administrator@CLAYTONWINNEBAGOWI.GOV>
Subject: FW: Threats to Election Workers & Administrators

FYI

Scott Rieckmann
Director of Public Safety
Town of Clayton
920-836-2170 office
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Starting November 20,2023 my email will be changing from firechief@townofclayton.net to firechief@claytonwinnebagowi.gov. Please update your address book so messages sent to the new address are not blocked.

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“Prevent, Respond and Minimize the harm to the people we serve”

From: Jensen, Aaron (USAWIW) <Aaron.Jensen@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Jensen, Aaron (USAWIW) <Aaron.Jensen@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Caballero, Steven (USAWIE) <Steven.Caballero@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Threats to Election Workers & Administrators

A message from Wisconsin’s U.S. Attorneys Concerning Threats to Election Workers & Administrators

Wisconsin Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, Election Administrators, and Election Workers:

Wisconsin is justifiably proud of our long history of fair elections. Fair Wisconsin elections happen year in and year out because of the dedication of Clerks, Election Officials, and Poll Workers. From Port Wing to Beloit, from Prescott to Kewaunee, Wisconsin election administrators and poll workers make democracy happen. In no small way, we owe our gratitude and our democracy to election administrators and poll workers.

Unfortunately, recent years have seen an uptick in threats against public servants in law enforcement, the judiciary, education, elections, and public health. The possibility of threats and harassment against election staff is a grave concern this election

cycle. Plainly put, it is cowardly and undemocratic to harass or threaten election administrators and poll workers.

Typically, threats cases are first reported to local law enforcement and prosecuted by our colleagues in District Attorneys' offices. However, as in other areas where federal and local law enforcement partners successfully work together – with regard to drugs, guns, child exploitation, violent crimes, computer crimes, financial offenses, human trafficking and more – it may be appropriate to hold the person accountable in federal court. Where, for example, the person communicates a serious threat in interstate commerce, crosses state lines to threaten a Wisconsin citizen, or where the case is more feasibly investigated using federal law enforcement resources or the grand jury.

As always, if such a situation were to arise, we would seek to jointly assess the matter with our federal, state, and local partners, discuss the charging options, and make a decision together. For example, that process resulted in a May 2022 guilty plea in the Eastern District of Wisconsin of a Georgia man who sent interstate threats to kill the Kenosha County Sheriff, Kenosha Police Chief, and City of Kenosha Mayor. See *U.S. v. Cao*, Case No. 21-CR-186 (E.D. Wis.). With that usual process in mind, please see attached a chart describing some state and federal options in threat cases.

Please call with questions or concerns regarding such cases or if we can be of assistance in any other matter.

Timothy M. O'Shea, U.S. Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin U.S. Attorney's Office
District Elections Officers: Chadwick Elgersma and Barbara Oswald
Madison, Wisconsin (608) 264-5158

Gregory Haanstad, U.S. Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin U.S. Attorney's Office
District Elections Officers: Christopher J. Ladwig and Philip T. Kovoor
Milwaukee, Wisconsin (414) 297-1700

FBI Milwaukee Field Office, 414-276-4684