

Exhibit A

Testimony Before Lake Park, FL Commission

June 18, 2025 Michael Steinhauer, 435 Greenbriar Dr., Lake Park.

Pipestone1992@gmail.com 608-332-5547

Good evening.

Tonight, I wish to stand and acknowledge the vital role of legislators in representing the people and upholding democratic values.

It can happen here. Horrific recent events have highlighted the importance of security for those in public service. The safety of our legislators is not merely a matter of protecting their personal space, but a critical element in safeguarding the principles of representative government.

Statutes, ordinances, and waivers are not just about policy and voting; it involves dedicating one's life to serving the public discourse, which now may involve personal risks.

Legislator safety is integral, to the integrity of the democratic process. When legislators feel threatened, it can hinder their ability to act freely, make informed decisions, and represent their constituents effectively.

As with all of you, I have deep concerns about violence and intimidation. I denounce acts of terror, threats, or harassment against public officials. Such actions have no place in civil society.

I hope that Lake Park officials are engaged in appropriate security measures, to protect legislators, the town hall staff, and all their families, while also respecting the public's right to access and engage with their representatives.

As a resident, and in service to the local nonprofit, the *Lake Park Society for the Advancement of Civic Engagement*, I/we seek to promote a culture of respect and civility, for good faith political dialog, and constructive engagement, emphasizing that differences of opinion should not ever escalate into hostility or violence. These are the primary principles that encourage residents to participate and engage in their civic duties.

Ensuring the safety of legislators is our collective responsibility. I/we call for unity in supporting efforts to protect those who serve the public, and to emphasize that a safe environment for legislators strengthens our democracy and ensures a government that can effectively address the needs of its citizens.

We will not sit by while these tragedies happen. Planning for our local collective safety should begin or continue in earnest. The Society stands ready to assist in any way we can.