



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

May 6, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Kafoury
Chair, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Ste 600
Portland, Oregon 97314

The Honorable Rod Underhill
District Attorney for Multnomah County
600 Multnomah County Courthouse
1021 SW 4th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Investigation of Sheriff Dan Staton
ODOJ Case No. CJD0027-16

Dear Chair Kafoury and District Attorney Underhill:

The Criminal Justice Division has completed its investigation into allegations regarding Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Staton. By letter dated February 5, 2016, you requested that the division conduct a review and, if appropriate, an investigation into potentially criminal misconduct by Sheriff Staton. His attorney, Paula Barran, is copied on this letter. The sheriff also requested an investigation.

Pursuant to your letter, our initial review and subsequent investigation was limited to the following three areas:

1. Allegations regarding collection of information about Multnomah County Charter Review Committee members;
2. Allegations regarding threats of violence;
3. Allegations contained in Chief Deputy Sheriff Yankee's tort claim notice.

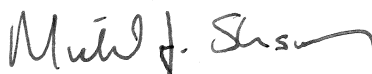
The division completed its preliminary review and determined that it was appropriate to open an investigation into the circumstances surrounding these allegations. The request was later expanded to include a fourth area of investigation regarding an allegation that the sheriff had offered a promotion to a union official in an attempt to block a vote of "no confidence" from the union.

Having now completed the investigation, we have concluded that the sheriff engaged in no criminal conduct in relation to the four areas of allegations under review. Specifically, we have determined that neither the sheriff nor any of his staff used LEDS or any other law enforcement database to obtain information about any of the members of the Charter Review Committee. The information that was provided to the sheriff was obtained by Google searches of publicly available websites. We are also satisfied that the sheriff's threatening comments did not rise to the level of criminal misconduct. Nor did any of the sheriff's actions as described in the tort claim notice constitute criminal misconduct. Finally, with respect to the allegation that the sheriff offered a promotion to a union official in an attempt to block a vote of "no confidence" from the union, our investigation did not reveal evidence sufficient to support criminal charges. For these reasons our office declines to prosecute any of these allegations concerning Sheriff Staton.

The scope of our investigation was limited to potentially criminal matters. We did not conduct any investigation into questions that were purely civil or administrative, nor concerning matters of labor or employment law. We offer no opinion as to the sheriff's conduct in those areas.

Thank you for referring this matter to the Criminal Justice Division. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Slauson
Chief Counsel
Criminal Justice Division

MJS/dpw/7265299

cc: Paula A. Barran, Barran Liebman, LLP