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February 22, 2013

Hon. Gary Sisk, Sheriff
Catoosa County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 909
Ringgold, Georgia 30736

Dear Sheriff Sisk,

Gary -

Recently, Chief Dan Bilbrey of the Ringgold Police Department released a press release regarding the termination of employment of one of his officers. I am aware of the nature of that investigation, in that I was the one who informed Chief Bilbrey that the FBI was doing a preliminary investigation of FBI Agent Ken Hillman, regarding his alleged behavior during and around the time he was conducting the joint task force operation known locally as the "Craig's list sting", and of a specific incident involving two city officers on October 24, 2012. This information started the Ringgold City Police Department investigation regarding a situation where the agent allegedly ordered one of the city officers to leave the scene and convinced (or pressured) Officer Tom Evans to suspend his investigation and taxi the agent to Chattanooga.

In my opinion, Chief Bilbrey seized upon relatively minor allegations regarding his officer and ignored the opportunity to interview the federal agent - although I understand he was given permission to do so. He defends that it would not have made a difference, so we just have differing opinions on the issue. I like Dan personally and I certainly like you personally and do not want to create undue tensions with everyone that I know in law enforcement.

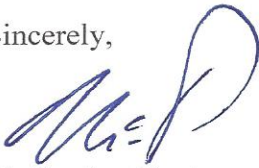
In my research of this agent and his activities in the county, I have discovered that other probable cause traffic stop contacts occurred between Agent Hillman and Catoosa County Sheriff's Office road officers, past and present. In my attempt to search for these other incidents, a 911 search has confirmed at least one of the other alleged situations where the federal agent was pulled over on probable cause but released by a Catoosa County officer. There is yet another similar incident that I believe should be examined.

In regard to the tensions that my inquiry have apparently caused, I am requesting in your capacity as Sheriff that you invite the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to look into these matters, in lieu of conducting your own internal investigation. I believe that the GBI is the most well suited agency to conduct this inquiry, and I am certain that the GBI is able to do this in a fashion that brings a high level of public confidence to you and your department during and after such an investigation.

Furthermore, and for the record please know that I am not seeking any punishment or negative consequences for past discretionary decisions made by your officers. I believe that officers should have a certain level of discretion and always have such when deciding whether or not to bring charges. However, in the scope of this inquiry I think it also important to know if a federal agent is intimidating or ordering around our local officers, such as what some evidence reveals happened at the Acoustic Cafe incident on October 24, 2012. In the scope of what happened that evening, all other similar contact with law enforcement is relevant in the scope of many inquiries.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this. As always, I wish for you the best in your endeavors as our Sheriff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'McCracken Poston', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

McCracken Poston