

Press Release

February 18, 2014

Joe Guy, Sheriff, McMinn County

Official Statement Regarding Recent Allegations of Misconduct by McMinn County Sheriff's Office Regarding Terry L Hayes

Due to the fact that this case has been prosecuted by Federal authorities, and further because Mr. Hayes still faces sentencing, I have been instructed by the US Attorney's Office not to comment on the specifics of the Federal case. Briefly, I can provide the following statement:

The McMinn County Sheriff's Office, along with Rhea County Sheriff's Office, Dayton Police Department, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, the Meigs County Sheriff's Office, and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, were all involved in the investigation of the initial rape case against Mr. Hayes in the fall of 2012. It was my department that uncovered evidence of a Federal offense, and it was my department who immediately made Federal authorities aware of it. As the Federal case against Mr. Hayes developed, our officers have supported and worked alongside the Federal investigators as this case has progressed.

Mr. Hayes was once a well-known and successful business owner in McMinn County. Our department supervisors and their wives attended a retreat and cookout at a Rhea County lake house owned by Mr. Hayes in September 2011, a year before we were aware of Mr. Hayes being involved in any criminal activity. Only MCSO supervisors and their spouses attended the event. Mr. Hayes was not present at any time.

It is unfortunate to discover criminal activity involving someone we know, but we are bound by our oaths to investigate such activity. We will always do what is right to the best of our ability.

Any allegations of anything improper regarding this department's involvement in this case are untrue. Six other agencies, including the FBI, have been involved in this case, and none have seen or reported anything improper.

These allegations are absurd and are most certainly being made because it is an election year. This is not the first time my political opponents have used this type of garbage tactic.