

From: Lexi Wingfield Lexi.Wingfield@co.benton.wa.us
Subject: FW: Information
Date: March 20, 2020 at 1:35 PM
To: Ryan Brown Ryan.Brown@co.benton.wa.us, Janine Blatt janine@jldlaw.com

LW

FYI

Lexi Wingfield
Human Resources Manager
Benton County
509-737-2777

From: Jon Law <Jon.Law@co.benton.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Lexi Wingfield <Lexi.Wingfield@co.benton.wa.us>
Cc: Steve Caughey <Steve.Caughey@co.benton.wa.us>; Alan Harvey <Alan.Harvey@nwladvocates.com>
Subject: Information

Lexi,

As you are aware, yesterday Steve Caughey and I were scheduled to participate in an interview with an investigator hired by the county to look into allegations made by Sheriff's Office personnel against Sheriff Hatcher. It is my understanding that these complaints potentially rise to the level of state and federally protected Whistleblower complaints.

The county has been made aware directly or indirectly that Sheriff Hatcher has hindered our ability to participate in this process in the recent past. We have been given a directive from Sheriff Hatcher to not participate in this process on county time or at a Sheriff's Office facility, amongst other things.

Yesterday, March 19th, Steve Caughey and I requested permission from Sheriff Hatcher to take accrued leave to attend our scheduled appointment with the investigator. This request was unequivocally denied by Sheriff Hatcher, in part due to the fact that he was made aware our guild attorney would be present.

I want to make it clear that Steve Caughey and I wish to participate in this process and our absence should not be construed as an unwillingness to participate or cooperate. There are other details about this and other incidents that we wish to discuss, but in an abundance of caution and to protect any rights that we have in this process I will withhold these details until such time that we are allowed to speak with the investigator.

As always, I assume that you will keep this communication confidential to protect our rights. We look forward to any feedback, suggestions or support you have to offer.

Jon Law, Benton County Command Guild President

Cc- Steve Caughey, Alan Harvey

