

7	Attachment 7: 2 nd Declaration 7 15 2020 BCSO Cmdr. (Ret.) Tom Croskrey		2
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2nd Declaration of Former BCSO Commander Tom Croskrey

I. Declaration

I make the following declaration:

1) I, Tom Croskrey make the following declaration:

I am over the age of eighteen (18), I am a currently a retired law enforcement officer, having had been most recently been employed until the end of February 2020 as a Commander for the Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) in a civil non certified position, and I am competent to testify to the facts set forth herein and make this declaration upon personal knowledge. I am making this statement of my own free will.

2) In 2019, I was hired to act as the Commander of the Benton County Jail.

3) I submitted my resignation in June of 2020. As a part of the process of my resignation, I had a meeting with administrators from the Benton County Human Resources Department and others. I had no issues with my timecard or any issues relating to accounting for any time. My meeting was a follow up meeting relating to an email I authored highlighting a complaint as a whistleblower and in reliance upon the Benton County anti-discrimination and/or harassment policy. My complaint was related to Sheriff Hatcher and acts I believe were unethical, unlawful and/or a violation of Benton County Policy with respect to BCSO IA 20-001 and other conduct that was unethical, unlawful and/or a violation of Benton County Policy.

On the 23rd of June 2020, after my email and complaint to Benton County Human Resources was public, Sheriff Hatcher appeared on KONA radio and gave an interview between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. During the interview Sheriff Hatcher over live radio made public allegations relating to me and stated that that there were issues relating to my use of time. Further, Sheriff Hatcher, the speaking agent for the Benton County Sheriff's Office left the clear impression with any reasonable person hearing his statements that I had done something potentially unlawful or unethical.

Sheriff Hatcher's public accusations relating to me are not true. Further, I felt that a public servant or public officer was using the power of his position to attack me in my position as a whistleblower. I was offended, shocked and intimidated by Sheriff Hatcher's conduct.

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- 4) As I indicated in my original declaration, Sheriff Jerry Hatcher directed me to, with respect to BCSO IA 20-001, to be the liaison between Benton County and Franklin County for the investigation. As far as I am aware, I was the only person who provided FCSO Captain Diaz and FCSO Captain Monty Huber access to the 14 cases of ammunition located at Sheriff Hatcher and Monica Hatcher's shared residence. I observed them examine the 14 cases of ammunition. A few random boxes were opened for inspection. However, not every box was opened and inspected. Those boxes that were opened were photographed. I have no recollection of seeing any documents within any of the boxes that were opened.

I CERTIFY AND DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY AND THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

DATED this 15th of July 2020.



Tom Croskrey
Signed at

Benton County, WA