



Office of the La Paz County Attorney  
1320 Kofa Avenue  
Parker, Arizona 85344-5724  
(928) 669-6118 / Fax: (928) 669-2019

SAMUEL E. VEDERMAN  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attn: Agent Frank Farley, Public Corruption Unit  
201 East Indianola Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

January 3, 2012

Agent Farley:

I would like to express my concern to you in reference to the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona Council (Town) and the Quartzsite Police Department (QPD). I have been the La Paz County Attorney since January 2009 and the Town of Quartzsite is located within the exterior boundaries of La Paz County.

At this time I am requesting the FBI conduct an investigation into the Town and the QPD. I request an investigation because I believe there have been facts and circumstances, during the course of my term as the La Paz County Attorney, which have led me to the belief that certain citizens within the Town of Quartzsite may have been, and may currently be, targeted for arrest and prosecution simply because they are in political opposition to the Town, QPD, Chief of Police Jeff Gilbert or other Town Officials.

I believe the circumstances warrant an investigation for the following reasons:

1. Chief Jeff Gilbert has requested felony charges against certain citizens for which I believe no criminal conduct occurred, or, at the very least, did not rise to the level of felony conduct: Russell Sias (Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer), Jennifer Jones (Influencing a Witness), Michael Roth (Resisting Arrest) and Ed Foster (Obstructing a Criminal Investigation).
2. It is my belief that the arrest of Ed Foster (the former Town Mayor) for conduct that arose out of the same incident in which Chief Gilbert requested Mr. Foster be charged with felony Obstructing a Criminal Investigation, was a politically motivated arrest.
3. The former Town Prosecutor, Matthew Newman, was fired after approximately twelve years as the Town Prosecutor. Mr. Newman was fired during the period of time he would not succumb to pressure by Town Officials, and Chief Gilbert, to prosecute certain people with crimes.
4. Chief Gilbert formally requested that this office no longer prosecute misdemeanor cases in which the QPD is involved and his request occurred after Mr. Newman was fired.

5. Chief Gilbert has requested that this office conflict off of certain felony cases, referred to this office by the QPD, in which there is no conflict of interest.
6. The Town, through Councilwoman Patricia Anderson, publicly criticized this office for declining to prosecute Michael Roth for an incident that took place at a Town Council meeting in June 2011. It is the same incident in which Chief Gilbert requested this office charge Mr. Roth with felony Resisting Arrest.
7. Chief Gilbert, through the Town, has fired numerous police officers, and the Town Evidence Custodian, after they had alleged misconduct on the part of Chief Gilbert.
8. One Police Officer, now a Sergeant with the QPD, had previously contacted this office concerned that if he carried out the order(s) of Chief Gilbert he may violate the civil rights of a citizen or citizens.
9. The Town has recently been found in violation of the Open Meeting Laws by the Arizona Attorney General.
10. The Town has, on more than one occasion, been found in violation of the Public Information Laws by the Arizona Ombudsmen.
11. Chief Gilbert is currently under investigation by the Arizona Department of Public Safety for alleged criminal violations. However, to my knowledge, no investigation has ever been commenced in reference to potential systemic public corruption involving the Town, the QPD, Chief Gilbert and Town Officials.
12. Most recently it has been alleged the Town, through Martin Brannan, who serves as Town Attorney, Town Prosecutor and Town Parliamentarian, created and published a website, or websites, that have the sole purpose of insulting, embarrassing and intimidating persons being prosecuted by the Town of Quartzsite or who are in political opposition to the Town, the QPD, Chief Gilbert or Town Officials.

While each individual issue may not rise to the level that would warrant an investigation, I do believe the totality of the circumstances does require a full, fair and thorough investigation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further and please know that I would be willing to travel to Phoenix to meet with you in person to discuss this with you.

Sincerely,



Sam Vederman  
La Paz County Attorney