

From: Steven A. Wadsworth
Sent: Mon, 2 Nov 2020 21:57:55 +0000
To: 'Steve Wetz'; Brian Vorauer; 'Braxton Roemer'
Cc: Mark Stroehrer; Buddy Mills
Subject: FW: Poll watcher incident

I wanted to be sure that you (FPD) was aware of this situation. Sadly, I think that having some extra patrols around Annex 2 tonight and tomorrow is prudent. I think that having some extra patrols around the courthouse area and all polling locations – sadly – is also prudent.

I am not sure what additional patrols or advisories that officers/deputies follow on election days, but I would just ask that everyone be aware and try to drive by the locations regularly to ensure an orderly election. Thank you.

From: Anissa Herrera
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:09 PM
To: Mark Stroehrer <mstroehrer@gillespiecounty.org>
Cc: Steven A. Wadsworth <swadsworth@gillespiecounty.org>; Terry Hamilton <thamilton@gillespiecounty.org>
Subject: Fwd: Poll watcher incident

UPDATE to poll watchers:

After the confrontation with Fredericksburg PD, we went to dinner to have a reprieve from the poll watchers.

My elections clerk went back to finish his standard work routine following the end of Early Voting such as removing Voter only parking signs and Curbside signs. It was 8:30 pm when he arrived at Annex 2. When he pulled into the parking lot Angela Smith was waiting in the parking lot. An unknown male was walking back to his vehicle from the building. They both pulled out of the parking lot in different directions when my clerk parked. Ms. Smith drove down the alleyway, drove around the block and came back to the Annex 2 parking lot and parked Between the bus and another county vehicle.

My clerk was standing by his truck to begin removing signs, felt uncomfortable and called dispatch. Officers responded, investigated, and found out it was indeed Ms. Smith. They found no cause for her to legally be on the property and ordered her to leave. At that point she pulled out of the parking lot and pulled across the street and parked on the street.

My clerk completed taking down the signs and went back into the building to continue working.

Just thought I would Keep you apprised of the situation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Anissa

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From: Anissa Herrera <aherrera@gillespiecounty.org>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 7:13 PM
To: Mark Stroehler
Cc: Steven A. Wadsworth; Terry Hamilton
Subject: Poll watcher incident

Mark,

Wanted to let you know what just happened. We had 4 poll watchers arrive today around 3:30 to witness the end of Early Voting. They had to be asked to step away from the ballot box because they were blocking it and my floor supervisor asked them to step away. They complied. They observed everything from the check in of voters to the locking of the ballot box to us securing the locked ballot box in the presence of our security.

They asked my elections clerk with security present questions such as why we did not have a security guard guarding the ballots all weekend long. They were told the building was secure and Angela Smith replied "yeah right"

Then the poll watchers left of their own volition seemingly satisfied with everything they had observed. They did not express any desire to return. They left the locked building as the polls closed at 4pm. I dismissed our security around 5 because they were outside the 100 foot area in the parking lot heading to their cars.

A little after 5, Ms. Smith approached the suite D door when I was taking down signs. She said she had paperwork allowing her to watch us set up the Conference room for Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) I said you have walked out of a secured public building and no longer have access. Around 5:15 pm, my elections clerk then went to inform her she could not come in the building and she began to get argumentative. He told he would not let her in the building, she kept demanding to get in the building and she threatened to call the Judge and the sheriff.

The elections clerk shut the door and continued posting Election Day voting locations. Then the elections clerk went to the conference room noticed Ms. Smith reading the posted signs on the door. When he exited the conference room after turning off the lights, he noticed Ms. Smith was filming him from the Suite C door.

Myself and the elections clerk walked out the Suite C door at 5:45 pm and 2 city cops were waiting for us at the door. One of the officers was Clem Castillo and I do not know the name of the other officer.

The other officer stated that Angela said she had paperwork authorizing her to watch us set up the room. I explained that she had presented paperwork for Early Voting and she had watched us lock up and seal the ballot box and that was the conclusion of Early Voting. I stated once they left the locked public building that they were no longer able to come in the building.

Then the officer questioned why the other paperwork was not valid to let Ms. Smith enter. I informed him Early Voting had concluded and the paperwork she was referring to has to be presented to the EVBB judge because that was under her authority. I spoke to the officers for about 10 minutes.

The officer said he would go inform her.
My elections clerk and I left the premises.

Also wanted to let you know Ms. Smith was blatantly filming 5 of my temporary elections clerks without their consent as they left the building making them feel uncomfortable and intimidated. I am concerned one or more of my Temporary clerks may not return due to this incident. One or more of my temporary Elections clerks have offered to provide additional information if so requested.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Anissa

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