



**Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Office of Executive Investigations
Public Corruption Unit**



Investigative Summary

FDLE Case Number: EI-32-0086

**Subject(s): Ken Mascara, Kevin C. Carter,
Adam Fetterman, Bryan Beaty & Keith Pearson**

Judicial Circuit: Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

County: Saint Lucie



Case Agent: Keith B. Riddick

Phone: (850) 410-8249

Email: KeithRiddick@fdle.state.fl.us

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EI-32-0086

- I. Investigative Summary
- II. Investigative Reports
- III. Related Items (see attached folder)
- IV. Witness List
- V. Investigative Cost Affidavit

**FDLE****PUBLIC CORRUPTION UNIT****OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INVESTIGATIONS
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY****CASE NUMBER:** EI-32-0086 **DATE:** March 29, 2023**CASE AGENT:** Inspector Keith B. Riddick**SUBJECT(s):**

- Ken Mascara
- Kevin C. Carter
- Adam Fetterman
- Bryan Beaty
- Keith Pearson

INCIDENT DATE(S): Between May 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020**INCIDENT
LOCATION(s):** St. Lucie County, Florida**ALLEGATION(S)/
CHARGE(S):**

- **F.S.S. 104.071(1)(c):** Election Code – Renumeration by candidate for services, support, etc.; a Third-Degree Felony
- **F.S.S. 104.091(1):** Election Code – Aiding, abetting, advising, or conspiring in violation of the code; a Third-Degree Felony
- **F.S.S. 106.08(5)(a):** Election Code – Contributions; limitations on; a Third-Degree Felony
- **F.S.S. 106.09(2)(b):** Cash Contributions and Contribution by Cashier’s Checks; a Third-Degree Felony
- **F.S.S. 817.155:** Matters within Jurisdiction of Department of State, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Acts, Statements, and Representations; a Third-Degree Felony
- **F.S.S. 777.011:** Principal in First Degree; a Third-Degree Felony and a First-Degree Misdemeanor
- **F.S.S. 934.215:** Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communications Device; a Third-Degree Felony

INVESTIGATIVE PREDICATE:

On August 4, 2021, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Office of Executive Investigations (OEI) received allegations of election fraud by St. Lucie County Sheriff, Ken Mascara. Per the allegations, Sheriff Mascara ordered and collaborated with St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office (SLCSO) members to recruit, facilitate the campaign of, and ultimately pay former SLCSO Deputy Sheriff Kevin C. Carter for registering as a Republican candidate in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff election race. Per the allegations, Carter’s “straw candidacy” was created by Sheriff Mascara in order to assist in his own re-election, by taking votes from Rich Williams, who was a registered Republican candidate in the Sheriff’s Office election’s race.

BACKGROUND OF 2020 ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ELECTION RACE

The following is a general timeline of events related to the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office election:

- Ken Mascara, a perennial Democrat, was first elected as the Sheriff of St. Lucie County in November of 2000, taking office in January, 2001. Mascara officially declared his intent to run for 2020 re-election on January 17, 2018, SLCSO, per documents filed with the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Office (SOE), again as a Democrat.
- Rich Williams, a former Florida Highway Patrol Trooper, first challenged Mascara in 2016, but lost to him by approximately 62.50% of the votes cast in the August Democratic Primary. According to subjects interviewed, Williams' campaign contained a substantial amount of "mudslinging" and personal attacks on Mascara and his family, part of which allegedly resulted in Mascara's daughter losing her job.
- On March 22, 2018, Williams filed a "Statement of Candidate" with the SOE as a precursor for his bid for Sheriff in the 2020 election. On August 2, 2018, Williams filed an "Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form with the SOE that indicated he was then running as a Republican, having changed political parties sometime after his 2016 election campaign.
- On May 19, 2020, Kevin Carter filed to run for SLCSO as a Republican.
- On August 18, 2020, Carter won the Republican Primary, making him the candidate to run against Sheriff Mascara.
- On November 3, 2020, Sheriff Mascara won re-election for St. Lucie County Sheriff.

KEVIN CARTER'S 2020 CAMPAIGN FOR ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHERIFF

Pursuant to the investigation, OEI conducted multiple sworn interviews, reviewed bank records, phone records, elections documents, and documents provided by witnesses. As a result of the investigation, the following facts were established:

SLCSO Captain William "Bill" Hardman (Retired)

Hardman was interviewed pursuant to an Investigative Subpoena generated by the Florida 18th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. As part of his interview, Hardman provided the following:

- Documents which he called a "Timeline" of his knowledge pertaining to Carter's campaign.
- Copies of emails and text exchanged between himself and Sheriff Mascara, related to Carter's campaign.
- Cellphone, which he alleged was provided by Sheriff Mascara to use as the phone line for Carter's campaign.

Hardman advised that on April 30, 2020, while employed at SLCSO, he engaged in the following email conversation with Sheriff Mascara, regarding the potential of having him run for Sheriff in the 2020 Republican primaries against Williams:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
4/30/2020	18:15	Hardman	Mascara	My whole life
4/30/2020	18:16	Mascara	Hardman	You got a leg up on him then!! LOL
4/30/2020	18:16	Hardman	Mascara	On so many levels
4/30/2020	18:17	Mascara	Hardman	Yes If we went and filed you tomorrow and you sent an email out to get petitions signed electronically you think you can get 2000 in 10 days.
4/30/2020	18:49	Hardman	Mascara	We can try If not I can always pull out
4/30/2020	18:18	Mascara	Hardman	I'm going to beat him like a red headed step child but I just don't want to go thru with it!!! Ugghhh
4/30/2020	18:19	Hardman	Mascara	What do I do after I beat him. Go to Gertrude and withdraw?
4/30/2020	18:19	Mascara	Hardman	Let me think about it tonight
4/30/2020	18:21	Mascara	Hardman	I would have to ask what would happen. I don't know. If you withdraw they might put him back on ballot.
4/30/2020	18:22	Hardman	Mascara	We need to know that
4/30/2020	18:25	Mascara	Hardman	Yep
4/30/2020	18:27	Hardman	Mascara	I would definitely do it and we could reach out thru social media to get the signatures but I want it end when he's out. No interest in November
5/1/2020	8:34	Mascara	Hardman	He still thinks crazy idea and makes me look weak. I told him I'm not weak just tired!!!!

Per Hardman, on May 9, 2020, Sheriff Mascara called and again asked him to run against Williams in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff's race. Per Hardman, Sheriff Mascara wanted him to defeat Williams in the Republican primary, so Sheriff Mascara "wouldn't have to be bothered with him (Williams) any longer." Hardman acquiesced to Sheriff Mascara's request, but later found out, via SLCSO General Counsel (GC) Adam Fetterman, that in order to run in the Sheriff elections, he would have to resign from the SLCSO. Per Hardman, when it was determined that he couldn't run in the Republican primary, Sheriff Mascara advised him that they would have to find a candidate to run against Williams.

Hardman relayed that he contacted a local individual named Billy O'Dell and asked him to run for Sheriff in the Republican primary, but he refused. Hardman added that at Sheriff Mascara's direction, he also asked SLCSO Deputy Jim Buchheit to run in the same race. Per Hardman, Buchheit initially said he would run in the Republican

primary, but on May 15, 2020, Buchheit came to Hardman's office and retracted his agreement. Hardman further advised that Buchheit was told of Sheriff Mascara's reasons for asking him to run. Hardman stated that sometime between May 15, 2020, and May 18, 2020, Sheriff Mascara called him and advised that Kevin Carter had agreed to run against Williams. Per a review of the texts provided by Hardman, the following conversation occurred with Sheriff Mascara:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
5/15/2020	16:54	Mascara	Hardman	He wants to talk to someone in R party I told him you would call
5/15/2020	16:54	Mascara	Hardman	[VCARD] (This details that a contact # was sent)
5/16/2020	9:51	Mascara	Hardman	Is he a military vet
5/16/2020	10:46	Mascara	Hardman	Gez This guy is a Home run. He might beat ME
5/16/2020	16:50	Mascara	Hardman	Is there a way to get his personnel file over weekend.
5/16/2020	18:18	Mascara	Hardman	Ok Thx
5/16/2020	18:19	Hardman	Mascara	This is what's in the 3rd email Safe driver award 2008 2011 2012 Commendation 2012 High school transcript 1976 Basic Recruit Academy 1990 Affidavit of separation (retirement) stating left NOT under investigation or involving misconduct July 2012 If you need any of this sent to you let me know
5/16/2020	18:26	Mascara	Hardman	Looks great. Thx

Per email records provided by Hardman, the following email from account kenmascara@gmail.com to billhardman@om.me, on May 16, 2020, at 16:28, acknowledges the receipt of Carter's SLCSO personnel records:

Re: Kevin Carter - they are in separate files due to file size

From: Kenmascara <kenmascara@gmail.com>
 To: Billhardman <BillHardman@pm.me>
 Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2020 at 6:28 PM

JK
10/5/21

Got it buddy

Sent from my iPhone

On May 16, 2020, at 6:10 PM, BillHardman@pm.me wrote:

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

----- Original Message -----

On May 16, 2020, 5:51 PM, Adam Goodner <alag3210@gmail.com> wrote:

<HR - Benefits (Red 4) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - -.tif>
 <HR - Benefits (Red 4) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - 07-31-2012 - FRS SEPARATION.tif>
 <HR - Benefits (Red 4) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - - FRS HIS 2.pdf>
 <HR - Appraisals (Red 1) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - -.tif>
 <HR - Benefits (Red 4) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - 1-16-2013 - INSURANCE INCREASE.tif>
 <HR - Applications (Green 6) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - -.tif>
 <HR - Benefits (Red 4) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - 04-25-2013 -.tif>
 <HR - Background (Red 2) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - -.tif>
 <HR - Benefits (Red 4) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - 07-31-2012 - RESIGNATION.tif>
 <HR - Applications (Green 6) - CARTER KEVIN - 549 - 01-01-1993 - SPECIAL OPER TEAM - SWAT.tif>

Hardman advised that the individuals that agreed to Sheriff Mascara's request to run against Williams, including himself, did so only to benefit his reelection campaign and were not, at first, offered any money for being willing to assist.

According to Hardman, on May 18, 2020, Carter went to Hardman's office around lunchtime and announced "so I guess I'm running for Sheriff." Hardman said he told Carter at that time, "we've got the paperwork, we've gotta get it filed out, blah, blah, blah. We'll handle it. You don't have to do anything. We'll take care of this."

Hardman advised that on the same date, he contacted Barbara Finster, a local accountant and friend, who agreed to be the campaign treasurer. Per Hardman, he gave Public Information Officer (PIO) Bryan Beaty the campaign documents, which PIO Beaty returned to Hardman in order for Finster to complete the campaign treasurer sections. Finster and Carter set up a bank account for his campaign at Seacoast Bank in Ft. Pierce. It should be noted that per Hardman, Finster was not aware of the true reasons for Carter running against Williams.

Hardman advised that he, Sheriff Mascara, SLCSO's Public Information Officer (PIO) Bryan Beaty, and GC Fetterman, were the primary agents in developing/managing Carter's campaign against Williams. Hardman explained that although GC Fetterman initially advised Sheriff Mascara to not introduce a candidate to run against Williams; once Carter agreed to run, GC Fetterman acted as the "advisor" for Carter's campaign. According to Hardman, the majority of the discussion and planning for Carter's campaign took place within the confines of the SLCSO Headquarters in Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Hardman advised that on May 20, 2020, Sheriff Mascara provided Hardman with a telephone to be used in the campaign. Hardman provided the OEI Inspectors with the cellular phone (#772-480-5890), and the receipt for its purchase, which he advised were originally provided to him by Sheriff Mascara. Hardman described the phone as being a "burner phone", one that service is bought on an as needed basis, that does not have a contract. Hardman said that after the campaign, Sheriff Mascara told him he wanted the phone back, but then told him to "get rid of it". Hardman described the conversation as; "You want me to take it down and drop it in the ocean or the river." To which Sheriff Mascara had replied, "That'd be good." Per a review of the aforementioned phone, it was activated on May 19, 2020, under the name of "Tom Thomas" but the "Billing Details" section of the record was blank without a listed name, address, or other identifying information. A review of the phone's call log identified completed calls to the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Office and Seacoast Bank, while other calls were made to such persons as Gertrude Walker, the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections, Andrew Nail an associate of Kenny Nail the Chairman of the St. Lucie County Republican Party, Kevin Carter, Bill Greenlee, a member of the local news media, and GC Fetterman. The records also detailed that GC Fetterman called the campaign phone at approximately 2:02 PM on July 16, 2020, which appeared to be via call forwarding, and was called from the campaign phone on the same day at approximately 2:09 PM where a conversation ensued for approximately four minutes.

Per Hardman, on May 21, 2020, Hardman escorted Carter to PIO Beaty's office where, with Carter's input, PIO Beaty completed the remaining supervisor of election's office paperwork for the campaign. Per Hardman, PIO Beaty also set up and managed Carter's campaign email account in and from his office at the SLCSO Headquarters. Hardman explained that he rented a post office box for the campaign using his personal money. Hardman commented that the post office box was needed because they couldn't use Carter's residential address, as he planned to be in Pittsburgh during the majority of the campaign period. Per Hardman, only he and PIO Beaty had the keys to the post office box. Hardman relayed that GC Fetterman, orchestrated two "mailers" for the campaign. GC Fetterman created the mailers using contacts he developed in his previous political career as a member of the Florida House of Representatives. Per Hardman, GC Fetterman sent emails outlining the mailers and paid for them with money from the Carter campaign account. Hardman provided the OEI Inspectors with printed copies of those emails, which detailed Fetterman's business email address, FettermanFirm@gmail.com.

Per texts provided by Hardman, on May 28, 2020, the following conversation occurred between him and Sheriff Mascara regarding PIO Beaty's assistance with documentation related to Carter's "ghost" candidacy for 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
5/28/2020	16:45	Hardman	Mascara	What is wrong
5/28/2020	16:46	Mascara	Hardman	Email address at SOE is different
5/28/2020	16:47	Hardman	Mascara	Oh yeah Beaty told me he fucked it up but I thought he fixed it
5/28/2020	16:48	Mascara	Hardman	Nope
5/28/2020	16:48	Hardman	Mascara	I'll call him right now
5/29/2020	11:32	Hardman	Mascara	I don't have it Either Beaty or Kevin has it

Per texts provided by Hardman, on July 12, 2020, the following conversation occurred between him and Sheriff Mascara:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
5/27/2020	12:51	Mascara	Hardman	I'll come to your office I left something in there for you

According to Hardman, after he received the aforementioned text, he went back to his office and found a bottle of liquor and \$10,000 in US currency inside his desk drawer. Hardman described the money as being "big bills, 100 and 50's." Hardman said that he received instructions from Sheriff Mascara, "to go find ten people to donate \$1000 or however -- whatever denomination's possible to get that 10,000 in the (Carter campaign) account". Hardman advised he was able to do what Mascara requested with the help of several of his friends. It should be noted that the first entry on Carter's campaign finance report, of money received from one of the "enlisted donors" as delineated above, was dated May 28, 2020.

Per texts provided by Hardman, on July 9, 2020, the following conversation occurred between him and Sheriff Mascara regarding obtaining votes for Carter's "ghost" candidacy for 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
7/9/2020	15:35	Mascara	Hardman	Yeaaaa
7/9/2020	15:36	Hardman	Mascara	I'm reaching out to all of my Republican friends and getting them on board. It's easy to do when I'm not asking for any money just a vote

Hardman provided the following July 11, 2020, email between himself (billhardman@pm.me), GC Fetterman (fettermanfrim@gmail.com), and Sheriff Mascara (kenmascara@gmail.com). Per the email, it appears that the three are discussing the design and content of a Carter campaign website (carterforsheriff.com) and mailers to be sent out to voters. It should be noted that the email contained an attachment titled "45612 Mascara Carter Diversion_6X...", which was later found to be a mailer created and/or designed by Mark Zubaly of Direct Mail

Systems, Inc. The attachments for the email provided by Hardman included a brief biography for Carter (to use in the website) and a mailer sample for the Carter campaign.



Per texts provided by Hardman, on July 12, 2020, the following conversation occurred between him and Sheriff Mascara, in which they appear to further discuss the information contained in the aforementioned email:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
7/12/2020	13:03	Mascara	Hardman	Instead of Sheriffs race explained. Headline Elections 101
7/12/2020	13:04	Hardman	Mascara	I like it

Per emails provided by Hardman (billhardman@protonmail.com), from July 16, 2020, at 10:15 hours and July 18, 2020, at 19:42 hours, the following communications occurred between GC Fetterman (fettermanfirm@gmail.com) and Carter (carterkc57@aol.com), in a string of emails with the subject line “Carter Take 3”. The emails pertain to Carter’s biographical information.

Re: Fwd: Carter Take 3

From: CarterKC57 <carterkc57@aol.com>
To: Billhardman <BillHardman@pm.me>
Date: Saturday, July 18th, 2020 at 7:42 PM

Born and raised in Pennsylvania and moved to Florida after serving 8 years in the US Navy and was Honorably discharged in 1986. Moved to St. Lucie County after being hired by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office in 1987.

Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone from somewhere in the world.

----- Original message -----
From: BillHardman@pm.me
Date: Sat, Jul 18, 2020 19:35
To: CarterKC57;
Cc:
Subject: Fw: Carter Take 3

----- Original Message -----
On Jul 18, 2020, 6:41 PM, Kevin Carter <kevincarterslc@gmail.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Adam Fetterman** <fettermanfirm@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 10:15 AM
Subject: Fwd: Carter Take 3
To: <kevincarterslc@gmail.com>

Kevin

Please approve this mail piece

The only thing missing is the website www.carterforsheriff.com which will be added on the line with the phone number and email address

Thank you

Per emails provided by Hardman (billhardman@protonmail.com), on July 18, 2020, at 19:48 hours, the following communication occurred, where Hardman instructed PIO Beaty (btbeaty681@gmail.com) to forward an edited version of Carter’s biographical information to GC Fetterman. Per the message, PIO Beaty was to forward the message to GC Fetterman using Carter’s campaign email, to make it appear the Carter had approved the information.

(No Subject)

From: Bill <BillHardman@protonmail.com>
To: Btbeaty681 <Btbeaty681@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, July 18th, 2020 at 7:48 PM

Take this text:

I approve this with the following changes....

Born and raised in Pennsylvania and moved to Florida after serving 8 years in the US Navy and was Honorably discharged in 1986. Moved to St. Lucie County after being hired by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office in 1987.

Kevin Carter
Republican candidate for st lucie county sheriff

Send it to fetterman as if Carter himself is sending from the campaign email

Per emails provided by Hardman (billhardman@protonmail.com), on July 18, 2020, at 19:54 hours, the following communication occurred, where PIO Beaty (btbeaty681@gmail.com) advised Hardman that he complied with his instructions to forward the edited version of Carter's biographical information using Carter's campaign email.

Re: (No Subject)

From: Btbeaty681 <btbeaty681@gmail.com>
 To: Bill <BillHardman@protonmail.com>
 Date: Saturday, July 18th, 2020 at 7:54 PM

Done

> On Jul 18, 2020, at 7:48 PM, Bill <BillHardman@protonmail.com> wrote:
 >
 > I approve this with the following changes.....
 >
 > Born and raised in Pennsylvania and moved to Florida after serving 8 years in the US Navy and was Honorably discharged in 1986. Moved to St. Lucie County after being hired by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office in 1987.
 >
 > Kevin Carter
 > Republican candidate for st lucie county sheriff

Per emails provided by Hardman (billhardman@protonmail.com), on July 20, 2020, at 22:54 hours, the following communication occurred, where GC Fetterman advised Sheriff Mascara and Hardman that Carter's campaign website (www.carterforsheriff.com) was functional. In the email, Fetterman also details how they would expend funds from Carter's campaign to "push traffic to the site".

Website is up

From: Adam Fetterman <fettermanfirm@gmail.com>
 To: Billhardman <billhardman@pm.me>
 Kenmascara <kenmascara@gmail.com>
 Date: Monday, July 20th, 2020 at 10:12 PM

<http://www.carterforsheriff.com/home>

no more changes - rest of the money will be going to paid ads to push traffic to the site

--

(please note - we are moving our office - ensure all mail is sent to the address below)

Adam M. Fetterman
 The Fetterman Firm, PLLC
 772/202-3261 phone
 772/905-0671 fax
www.fettermanfirm.com
fettermanfirm@gmail.com
 10380 SW Village Center Dr., #328
 Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

Per texts provided by Hardman, on August 12, 2020, the following conversation occurred between him and Sheriff Mascara, in which they appear to discuss residual funds in the Carter campaign account:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
8/12/2020	18:40	Hardman	Mascara	All campaign expenses are paid and we have \$475 left. Adam said no place to spend it so we can just leave it there for now. Any suggestions?
8/12/2020	18:41	Mascara	Hardman	Let's go get drunk.

On August 20, 2020, per SOE records from Carter's campaign account, a \$375 check was expended at a Ft. Pierce restaurant named Moonswiner's Barbecue (it should be noted that Moonswiner's Barbecue is owned by Danny and Tia Adkins, two of the people that Hardman asked to donate part of the \$10,000 given to him by Mascara to kick off the campaign.) Per Hardman, Sheriff Mascara had him provide a check in the amount of \$375.00 from Carter's campaign account, at Moonswiner's Barbecue, in return for cash in the same amount. Per Hardman, Sheriff Mascara instructed him to have the campaign treasurer list the aforementioned check in the SOE documents as a payment for a campaign volunteer lunch. Hardman advised that the volunteer lunch never took place (which was confirmed by Kelly Flood, a managerial employee at Moonswiner's Barbecue) and instead, Sheriff Mascara had him use the money to pay individuals that were waving signs for the Carter campaign. Hardman said Sheriff Mascara instructed him to deliver the cash to a female named Laurie (later identified as Laurie Strang) who was waving signs at a certain intersection in St. Lucie County. Hardman advised that he found Laurie and handed her the money, which was contained in a red solo cup, saying "Here, Sheriff Mascara told me to give you a drink." Per Hardman, she looked in the cup and she said, "I'm very thirsty, thank you." It should be noted that OEI Inspectors interviewed Strang, who stated that the aforementioned money was payment for her waving signs and coordinating the scheme that involved the sign-wavers, as described above.

Additionally, on the same date, per texts provided by Hardman, the following conversation occurred between him and Sheriff Mascara, in which they appear to discuss recruited voters for the Carter campaign:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
8/20/2020	9:53	Hardman	Mascara	Carter officially filed and appeared on the ballot May 21 In 89 days we convinced 12,341 people to vote for him as a complete unknown candidate. That's a total of 138 new voters convinced every single day for 89 straight days. In 4 years rw convinced 7098 people to vote for him. That's 4.8 per day. That puts in an astonishing perspective. He should consider himself very lucky we didn't start 4 years ago.
8/20/2020	10:07	Mascara	Hardman	I'm sending that to joe edge to post.

It should be noted that per SOE records, Joe Edge, through his business The Tax Shoppe of SLC, Inc., his wife Maria Edge, and his brother Richard Edge, each donated \$1,000 to the Carter campaign.

Regarding payments made to Carter for his participation as a "ghost" candidate in the 2020 St Lucie County Sheriff race, Hardman informed the OEI Inspectors that Carter was given between \$4,400 and \$4,600 dollars as compensation. Hardman said the money originated from the Carter campaign account as two checks cashed at Moonswiner's Barbecue (at the direction of Sheriff Mascara) in the same manner as the referenced above and six checks written to individuals that were listed on the Carter campaign Financial Report as "Poll Watchers".

Hardman advised that Sheriff Mascara provided him the names of the poll watchers. Hardman then arranged for Finster (Carter's Campaign Treasurer) to obtain the counter checks from the bank, which Hardman provided to Sheriff Mascara to distribute to the poll watchers. Per Hardman, the poll watchers had the instructions that they were to cash the checks, and return the money to Sheriff Mascara. Hardman advised that once Sheriff Mascara had collected all the cash from the poll watchers, he gave it to Hardman who in turn provided it to Carter. In corroboration of this account, the following text conversation between Hardman and Mascara was identified from the text provided by Hardman:

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	MESSAGE
10/14/2020	17:29	Mascara	Hardman	What's up!!! I need 6 signed Counter checks!!
10/14/2020	17:29	Hardman	Mascara	I'll call her tonight 590 each, right? (referring to the campaign treasurer)

OEI Inspectors interviewed all of the listed “poll watchers” who advised that they waved signs for the Carter campaign. Laurie Strang admitted to having enlisted her daughter Jessica, boyfriend Dugan and family friends, Przekop and Brown, to wave signs. Additionally, Strang stated that they cashed the checks and she collected the funds. Dugan, Jessica Strang, and Przekop corroborated Strang that the checks were cashed and the money returned to her. Laurie Strang further testified that she, accompanied by Dugan, took the cash from the checks to Sheriff Mascara. Dugan admitted to taking the money to Sheriff Mascara with Laurie Strang. Brown could not remember anything to do with the checks, reportedly due to his alcoholism, and Rogers (Sheriff Mascara’s son’s ex-girlfriend), denied cashing the check and returning the money to Sheriff Mascara. The following transactions were identified in corroboration to Hardman’s statement and via copies of the “counter checks” that were obtained via a subpoena to Seacoast Bank. The financial records for Carter’s campaign detailing the transactions, were filed with the SOE on October 30, 2020.

Type	Date	Vendor	Amount	Purpose
Expense	10/18/20	Matthew J. Przekop	\$595.00	Poll Watcher
Expense	10/18/20	Crystal Rogers	\$595.00	Poll Watcher
Expense	10/18/20	Dennis A. Dugan	\$595.00	Poll Watcher
Expense	10/18/20	Jessica L. Strang	\$595.00	Poll Watcher
Expense	10/18/20	Laurie A. Strang	\$595.00	Poll Watcher
Expense	10/18/20	Dennis Brown	\$500.00	Poll Watcher
Expense	10/28/20	Moonswiner's Bar-B-Q	\$602.97	Promotional Event
Expense	10/29/20	Moonswiner's Bar-B-Q	\$400.00	Promotional BBQ
		TOTAL	\$4,477.97	

Regarding Carter’s participation in his own campaign, Hardman reiterated that Carter himself had very little to do with the campaign. Hardman estimated that Carter was only in St. Lucie County between 15% and 20% of the time from when he agreed to “run” to the general election in November. Hardman stated that Carter may have talked to the media “once or twice” and had “a couple” of pictures taken for campaign material.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING KEVIN CARTER’S 2020 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT REVIEW

As part of this investigation, OEI Investigators reviewed the St. Lucie County SOE records Carter’s campaign. Per the reviewed records, Carter’s campaign received a total of \$23,550 in contributions. Per Hardman, the contributions originated from the \$10,000 provided by Sheriff Mascara, contributors that the Sheriff provided additional funds to donate, and from legitimate donations. Regarding the manner in which the \$10,000 provided by Mascara were able to be deposited into Carter’s campaign, Hardman identified the following 11 individuals as “straw donors” to whom he provided cash funds. Per Hardman, the individuals were to donate to the Carter

campaign from their own accounts in the same amount that Hardman had provided. Per SOE records, the “straw” contributions were made as follows:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
5/29/2020	Richard Gosser	\$ 1,000.00
5/29/2020	Patrick A. Hilburn	\$ 1,000.00
5/29/2020	Julia C. Hilburn	\$ 1,000.00
5/29/2020	Joseph E. Herndon	\$ 500.00
5/28/2020	Joe’s Electric	\$ 1,000.00
5/29/2020	Randolph E. McDaniel	\$ 500.00
6/10/2020	Nicholas K. Kent	\$ 1,000.00
6/10/2020	Teresa K. Kent	\$ 1,000.00
6/1/2020	Johnny Ray Smith	\$ 1,000.00
6/19/2020	Danny Adkins III	\$ 1,000.00
7/23/2020	Tia Adkins	\$ 1,000.00
	Total	\$ 10,000.00

OEI Inspectors interviewed ten of the eleven donors listed above (Gosser died prior to this investigation) and all but Danny and Tia Adkins corroborated Hardman’s statement that he had given them the funds to donate to Carter’s campaign. Hardman advised that he knew some of the other contributors to Carter’ campaign, but he had not provided them with the funds for donations. Per Hardman, Sheriff Mascara had given him several checks from individuals donating to the Carter campaign that Hardman in turn deposited into the campaign account.

It should be noted that per SOE records, the campaign account was closed on December 31, 2020.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING KEVIN CARTER’S 2020 CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND PROPAGANDA

As previously detailed in this Investigative Summary, Hardman advised that GC Fetterman was tasked with and/or was responsible for all, or part of, Carter campaign’s advertising. Per records provided by Hardman, OEI Inspectors determined that the companies Impressive Click, The Firefly Group, and Direct Mail Systems Inc. conducted work on Carter’s campaign. OEI Inspectors obtained and reviewed records from the aforementioned companies related to Carter’s 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff campaign. Per the reviewed records, Impressive Click was hired by GC Fetterman to build Carter’s campaign website. Additionally, it was determined that the company Direct Mail Systems Inc. was contracted by GC Fetterman to produce and deliver campaign mailers.

Stacy Weller Rainieri

Stacy Weller Rainieri advised she owned and operated the company The Firefly Group. Weller stated that she was contacted by GC Fetterman, who asked her to create a website for Carter’s campaign. Weller further advised “since it was just website work, I passed it on to Andrew (identified as Andrew Webster), who is my web developer for all of my clients’ websites through the company Impressive Click. Weller advised that she knew GC Fetterman, as she had previously met him when he was running for a State Representative seat several years ago, and from her company having worked on his re-election campaign. Weller further stated that she recognized the email address “Fettermanfirm@gmail.com” as belonging to GC Fetterman.

Andrew Webster

Andrew Webster advised that he owned and operated the company Impressive Click. Webster stated that he knew GC Fetterman from previous website work he performed for him, and his wife, through Weller and from GC Fetterman being his parent's neighbor. Webster also advised that he recognized the email address "fettermanfirm@gmail.com" from his previous dealings with GC Fetterman. Webster advised that he did not have direct contact with GC Fetterman related to Carter's campaign and that the interactions occurred by email, through Weller.

OEI Inspectors located an archived copy of Carter's campaign website created by Webster. The homepage of the website consisted of a photo of Carter, a logo for his campaign and a written statement titled "A Life of Service To Country and Community", all of which were present in email's related to GC Fetterman regarding Carter's campaign. Per reviewed records provided by Webster, the statement titled "A Life of Service To Country and Community" was almost verbatim to a Word document sent to Rainieri by GC Fetterman. Also, the website's page, titled "About My Opponent", was taken from an email sent to Rainieri by GC Fetterman on July 16, 2020 at 7:32 PM in which GC Fetterman notes that he had previously sent her an FHP internal affairs report regarding Carter's opponent (Rich Williams). The email also stated that it contained a letter from Indian River County Sheriff Deryl Loar, which was also located on Carter's campaign website.

Mark Zubaly

Zubaly advised that he owned and operated the company Direct Mail Systems Inc. Per Zubaly, he first worked with GC Fetterman in 2016 regarding Sheriff Mascara's re-election campaign. Zubaly stated that during the summer of 2020, he was contacted by GC Fetterman, who asked him to work on the Carter campaign. Zubaly advised that he was contracted by GC Fetterman to produce direct mail for the Carter Campaign in order to help Carter win the primary. Zubaly commented that they used some of the same material in Carter's campaign that they had used in Mascara's 2016 campaign; materials that had been supplied by Mascara's campaign personnel. Zubaly understood that GC Fetterman, and others, believed that Carter was the "better of two evils" over the other Republican candidate, Rich Williams. Zubaly also said that he was given the impression, by GC Fetterman, that Carter "would be done after winning the primary." Zubaly stated that his sole contact, with the Carter campaign, was Adam Fetterman.

19th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Investigator Daniel Jones

According to Jones, Carter told him that Sheriff Mascara, personally approached him (Carter) and "asked him to run for Sheriff to kinda do away with the competition." Jones also advised that he became involved in Sheriff Mascara's election in 2020, he believed after the primary, and went to St. Lucie County Sheriff's Lieutenant Keith Pearson's home to pick up some Mascara campaign signs. While he was there, Pearson told him "there's the same assembly line where they made all the Carter signs, put 'em all together, distributed in the same way that they were doing Mascara's signs." Pearson also told Jones that he, and unknown other persons, had placed and taken down, various Carter campaign signs. Jones also stated that Pearson informed him that he (Pearson) had written the campaign biographical letter used in the St. Lucie County Supervisors of Elections' website for Carter.

SLCSO Lieutenant Scott Wells

Wells advised that during one of his night shifts, he was patrolling in the area of Midway Road and Melville Road in Ft. Pierce, Florida when he observed a suspicious vehicle parked on the side of Melville Road. Wells described the vehicle as a white "Sprinter type van" similar to one that the Sheriff's office had previously seized during an investigation. Wells stated that when he stopped behind the vehicle, he heard the sound similar to that of a weed

eater being run. Wells advised that he then observed Sheriff Mascara standing off to his right. Per Wells, he asked Sheriff Mascara if he was doing some late-night yard work, to which Sheriff Mascara replied "'No, we're just out putting up some signs." Wells then noticed two other subjects, who he identified as SLCSO Lieutenant Keith Pearson, who appeared to be carrying a chainsaw, and a subject named John O'Neil who is a local businessman and long-time supporter of Sheriff Mascara. Wells stated that after the short conversation with Mascara he resumed his patrol, only to return a short time later to see that a Kevin Carter campaign sign was now standing where they had been working. According to Lt. Wells, the sign was located at 701 Midway Road, Ft. Pierce.

Linda and James Crist

Linda and James owned the aforementioned property where the Carter campaign sign was placed (701 Midway Road, Ft. Pierce). Both Linda and James Crist stated that they did not remember who asked to erect the sign described in Lt. Wells' statement, but did remember the Carter sign being at that location.

SLCSO Lieutenant Richard Ziarkowski

Lt. Ziarkowski advised that when he heard that Carter was running for Sheriff, he called Carter and asked him for campaign paraphernalia, such as shirts and signs. Lt. Ziarkowski stated that he did so because it was obvious, to him, that Carter was a ghost candidate and that if him supporting Carter was going to help his boss, Sheriff Ken Mascara, he would help.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING KEVIN CARTER'S 2020 CAMPAIGN

Based on a review of the documents provided by Hardman, OEI Inspectors identified email communications between Sheriff Mascara, GC Fetterman, PIO Beaty, Carter, and Hardman, in which different aspects and actions (media, propaganda and financial) of Carter's 2020 "ghost" campaign for 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff were discussed. The reviewed documents included multiple emails sent from Carter campaign email account. It should be noted that per reviewed documents and statements, Hardman, PIO Beaty, and GC Fetterman had access and appeared to have used the account to send emails as Carter. The following table details the identified emails, which were attached to this Investigative Summary as "Appendix A":

DATE	TIME	SENDER	RECIPIENT	SUBJECT
5/16/2020	18:10	Hardman	Mascara	Kevin Carter - they are in separate files due to file size
5/16/2020	18:28	Mascara	Hardman	Kevin Carter - they are in separate files due to file size
6/18/2020	12:20	Fetterman	Hardman	Send me pics
6/23/2020	15:49	Hardman	Carter	(No Subject)
6/24/2020	11:26	Hardman	Fetterman	Send me pics
6/24/2020	20:49	Fetterman	Hardman	mascara
6/30/2020	20:10	Carter	Hardman	(No Subject)
7/11/2020	15:59	Fetterman	Mascara / Hardman	status - DO NOT FORWARD OR SHARE
7/16/2020	10:15	Fetterman	Carter Campaign	FWD: Carter Take 3
7/18/2020	19:35	Hardman	Carter	Carter Take 3
7/18/2020	19:42	Carter	Hardman	FWD: Carter Take 3
7/18/2020	19:48	Hardman	Beaty	(No Subject)

7/18/2020	19:54	Beaty	Hardman	(No Subject)
7/20/2020	22:12	Fetterman	Mascara / Hardman	Website is up
7/23/2020	12:53	Fetterman	Hardman	Re: Fw: Fwd: They had a retired Judge do the message...
7/23/2020	12:56	Fetterman	Direct Mail Systems	status
7/24/2020	14:59	Fetterman	Hardman	FWD: status
7/29/2020	10:18	Fetterman	Direct Mail Systems	Fwd; Emailing: 45726 Mascara Carter Whack Take 1

Furthermore, the following individuals provided sworn statements regarding their knowledge of Carter's 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff campaign:

SLCSO Administrative Assistant (AA) Melissa Reuther

AA Reuther was interviewed in relation to this investigation because she served as Hardman's SLCSO administrative assistant during the time of the 2020 election. AA Reuther advised that she was Hardman's assistant from "May or June of 2020 until August-ish of 2020." AA Reuther advised that, on one day, during the 2020 elections period, Hardman handed her a cell phone and asked her to record a voice mail greeting message on it. AA Reuther stated that, using verbiage supplied by Hardman, she attempted to record a message that said something to the effect of "This is the Kevin Carter campaign. Sorry we didn't reach you." Reuther advised that she was unable to successfully record the message and gave the phone back to Hardman. Reuther also relayed that sometime in June or July of 2020, Hardman asked her to come into his SLCSO office, where he showed her "thousands of dollars" in U.S. Currency that were in Hardman's desk drawer.

SLCSO Detective Andrew Bolonka

Det. Bolonka advised that he heard, from early on in the campaign, that Carter running for Sheriff was a sham, that people had been given money, via Hardman from Sheriff Mascara, to donate to Carter's campaign, and that SLCSO Deputy Jim Buchheit and St. Lucie County business man Jamie Hannan had also been asked to run by Mascara. Per Det. Bolonka, he also later spoke with former SLCSO Detective Scott Young who had told him that Mascara had asked him to run for Sheriff to "take out Williams."

Det. Bolonka recalled a conversation he had with Carter before the primary election in 2020 at a local establishment. Per Det. Bolonka, Carter stated that "Well, things are pretty messed up right now. All the rumors are starting to fly." Per Det. Bolonka, Carter stated this regarding, "Oh, you know. Like, you know, the election stuff. I'm supposed to be up in Pennsylvania laying low. I'm not even supposed to be around here. But now because all these rumors have started about the sham election, I'm kind of here now, you know, showing my face." Additionally, per Det. Bolonka, Carter added "Yeah. Oh, they got me wrapped up in this. Now it -- it's turned in -- turned into kind of a mess so now I'm stuck and I have to see it all the way through." Det. Bolonka advised that Carter never mentioned any names in reference to the conversation.

Det. Bolonka also recalled he had a conversation with SLCSO Lieutenant (Lt.) Scott Wells. According to Det. Bolonka, Lt. Wells informed him that while he was on patrol one night, he observed three suspicious persons. Lt. Wells stopped to check on them, and found the three individuals to be Sheriff Mascara, Lt. Pearson, and John O'Neill, a local businessman. Per Det. Bolonka, Lt. Wells advised that he left the area for a short time and when he drove back by the same area, he observed a Carter campaign sign where the three aforementioned individuals had been standing.

Former SLCSO Chief Deputy Garry Wilson

Wilson advised that he heard GC Fetterman make a comment, to the effect of, “We may have stepped over the line”, in reference to the scheme to have Carter run as a Republican candidate in order to keep Rich Williams from reaching the elections.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SOLICITATION OF “GHOST” CANDIDATES
IN THE 2020 ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHERIFF RACE**

As stated previously in this Investigative Summary, Hardman advised that the following individuals were approached either by himself or Sheriff Mascara in order to convince them to enter the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race against Williams.

William “Billy” O’Dell

O’Dell advised that Bill Hardman asked him to enter the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race. Per O’Dell, Hardman also advised him that “they” would raise the money needed for registration as a candidate. O’Dell subsequently declined the invitation to run.

SLCSO Reserve Deputy James Buchheit

Buchheit advised that it was “joked about for years”, that he was going to run for Sheriff, but he had not, that he could remember, been asked to run by current Sheriff Mascara, or anyone in the Sheriff’s command staff.

SLCSO Detective Scott Young, Retired

Young advised that on May 15, 2020, Sheriff Mascara came to see him at his barber shop in Vero Beach, Florida. Young knew the date because Sheriff Mascara brought him a laminated copy of a newspaper article that announced the opening of the barbershop which he posted on the business’ Facebook page that day. Young stated that Sheriff Mascara asked him to step outside, and when they did, Sheriff Mascara said “have a proposition for you.” Per Young, Sheriff Mascara said, “You know, this guy running against me, Rick Williams, we need to get rid of him. So how would you like to be Sheriff?” Young thought Sheriff Mascara was kidding, but Sheriff Mascara then said “No, really. How’d you like to be Sheriff? You’re a Republican, right?” To which Young replied that he was. Per Young, Sheriff Mascara then stated “Here’s what I’m proposing. You’re gonna run for Sheriff. And Sheriff’s office is gonna back you and support you. And you’ll win. And then you will run against me. And then, of course, you will concede, and I will become Sheriff.” Young advised that he ultimately told Sheriff Mascara that he was not willing to run for Sheriff.

Young advised that he later heard about Carter running, so Young met with Sheriff Mascara and told him “I’m hearing a lot of rumors about fraud.” Young said that Sheriff Mascara got “really offended” and commented “I don’t know what -- that -- that’s bullshit. I can support whoever I wanna support and back -- I” – what.” Young further advised that he later spoke with Carter about the campaign and Carter admitted that he too had been approached and asked to run against Williams. Carter reportedly told Young “Well, yeah, you know, he came to me and asked me to run and basically told me the same thing. He’s gonna support me. And, uh, then I’ll run and I’ll concede and he’ll be Sheriff. And that’s what we did.”

SUBJECT STATEMENTS

SLCSO Deputy Kevin Carter, Retired

OEI Inspectors conducted a sworn recorded interview of retired SLCSO Deputy Sheriff Kevin Carter pursuant to this investigation. Carter was asked how he became a candidate for the Sheriff of St. Lucie County in 2020. Carter advised that he was at the Sheriff's headquarters one day, talking to Sheriff Mascara, when Sheriff Mascara asked Carter "Can you do me a favor?" or something to that effect. When Carter asked Sheriff Mascara "What might that be?", he replied "'how -- how about you running for Sheriff on Republican side?" Carter explained that at first he told Sheriff Mascara no, but Sheriff Mascara commented to him that the members of the Republican party in St. Lucie County didn't want Williams running because they considered him a "RINO" (a Republican in name only) as Williams had previously campaigned as a Democrat. Carter stated that "Um, so he kinda talked me into it." and "against my better judgment, I said 'Yeah'".

Carter relayed how Sheriff Mascara had him meet with Hardman, who became his "campaign manager". Per Carter, Hardman had him meet with Barbara Finster, who was the campaign treasurer. Carter described how he paid the filing fee with money given to him by Hardman, and filed the necessary paperwork with the supervisor of elections office. Carter also opened a bank account for the campaign, with Barbara Finster. Carter advised that he believed Hardman gave him the filing fee in cash while they were in Hardman's office at the SLCSO headquarters. It should be noted that contrary to Carter's statement, the filing fee, \$9,127.50, was paid with a check to "SLC Supervisor of Elections", from Carter's campaign account, dated June 10, 2020.

Carter advised that he understood that SLCSO Lt. Pearson was in charge of making his campaign signs and had put up some of the signs. Carter stated that he discussed "the paperwork side" of the campaign with PIO Beaty, while in Beaty's office at the SLCSO headquarters. Carter also believed that PIO Beaty was responsible for the campaign webpage. Carter stated that after he won the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff primary against Williams, Hardman told him "Campaign's done." Carter believed that after the primary, his campaign signs were pulled up and had no further involvement in the election. Carter estimated that he was only in St. Lucie County approximately 25% of the time during the 2020 election cycle.

Regarding payment for running in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race, Carter stated that he met with Hardman, in November of 2020, who gave him approximately \$4,600 in U.S. Currency as payment for his involvement in the race. Carter said that Hardman commented that he, Hardman, went to Mascara, and suggested they give Carter something, which Mascara authorized. Carter advised that he believed that the money came from Mascara.

SLCSO Public Information Officer Bryan Beaty

OEI Inspectors conducted a sworn recorded interview of PIO Beaty pursuant to this investigation. PIO Beaty explained that he first heard that Carter was going to run for Sheriff from Sheriff Mascara during a conversation in which SLCSO Major Brian Hester was also present. PIO Beaty advised that he said to Sheriff Mascara, "I told him that I thought that that was unnecessary." PIO Beaty also stated, "yeah, he just didn't want to have to go through the extended campaign period. He would've preferred to not go through the extended campaign period and have all of that happen again", in reference to Williams' comments about Sheriff Mascara and his family during the previous campaign(s). PIO Beaty advised that he only met Carter once during the campaign. PIO Beaty further advised that he, at the request of Hardman, searched SLCSO's archives of any photographs' that Carter might be able to use in the campaign and printed out documents from the supervisor of election's office for Carter, at Hardman's request. PIO Beaty also stated that he edited Carter's campaign biography, at the request of Hardman or Sheriff Mascara. PIO Beaty further advised that he understood that GC Fetterman assisted Carter's campaign by facilitating the creation of the campaign flyers. It should be noted that PIO Beaty's statement was

in opposition to Hardman's and Carter's statements about PIO Beaty's knowledge of Carter's "ghost" candidacy and his involvement with the campaign's SOE paperwork and website management.

SLCSO Lieutenant Keith Pearson

OEI Inspectors conducted a sworn recorded interview of Lt. Pearson pursuant to this investigation. Pearson advised that he was approached by Hardman about using the workshop located in the backyard of his residence for Hardman to put together Carter campaign signs. Per Pearson, he also put up Carter campaign signs around the county, or distributed them to other persons, at Hardman's request. Pearson stated that he was not asked to support Carter by SCLSO Sheriff Ken Mascara. Per Pearson, he backed Carter because he did not want Williams to win the Republican primary race for St. Lucie County Sheriff. It should be noted that Pearson's statement was in opposition to Hardman's statement that he had knowledge of Carter's "ghost" candidacy, from Wells' statement that he had seen Pearson and Mascara together at the time a Carter campaign sign was being placed, and from Carter's statement that Pearson was in charge of making the campaign signs.

SLCSO General Counsel Adam Fetterman

OEI Inspectors conducted a sworn recorded interview of GC Fetterman, who was accompanied by his attorney, Brian Tannenbaum, Esq. GC Fetterman was asked various questions about his involvement with the Carter campaign for Sheriff in 2020. To each question, Mr. Tannenbaum replied by stating he was invoking his client's Fifth Amendment right to remain silent.

SLCSO Sheriff Kevin Mascara

Sheriff Mascara declined to provide a statement to OEI Inspectors related to this investigation.

SECTION II

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

The following findings are based on the evidence, documentation, and information obtained during OEI's investigation:

- Per sworn statements and reviewed text communications, Mascara approached Hardman and advised of a plan to register Carter as a "ghost" candidate in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race, in order to take away votes from Republican candidate Williams.
- Per sworn statements, Mascara approached Carter and convinced him to registered as a "ghost" candidate in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race, in order to take away votes from Republican candidate Williams.
- Per sworn statements and text communications, Sheriff Mascara communicated with Hardman via cellular phone text message to orchestrate the "ghost" candidacy of Carter in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race, in order to take away votes from Republican candidate Williams.
- Per SOE records, on May 19, 2020, Carter registered as a Republican candidate, in the 2020 St. Lucie County primary race at the direction of Sheriff Mascara, to assist him in taking votes away from Republican candidate Williams.

- Per sworn statements and text communications, Sheriff Mascara provided Hardman with \$10,000 in cash to facilitate Carter’s campaign in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.
- Per SOE records, Carter’s campaign received a total of \$23,550 in contributions, to include the \$10,000 provided by Sheriff Mascara.
- Per sworn statements, Sheriff Mascara ordered Hardman to provide the aforementioned \$10,000 he provided, to individuals in order to have them in turn contribute to Carter’s campaign.
- Per sworn statements, Hardman divided the \$10,000 provided by Sheriff Mascara to 11 individuals (in 10 amounts of \$1,000 and 2 amounts of \$500), who in turn contributed the funds to Carter’s campaign.
- Per sworn statements and SOE records, the 11 individuals contributed the funds provided by Sheriff Mascara through Hardman, to the Carter campaign for 2020 St. Lucie Sheriff.
- Per sworn statements, Lt. Pearson knew of Carter’s “ghost” candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.
- Per sworn statements, Lt. Pearson assisted with producing and placing Carter’s campaign signs throughout the county.
- Per sworn statements, Lt. Pearson was seen with Sheriff Mascara, placing a Carter campaign sign in the county.
- Per sworn statements PIO Beaty knew of Carter’s “ghost” candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.
- Per sworn statements PIO Beaty assisted with the SOE paperwork for Carter’s campaign.
- Per sworn statements PIO Beaty assisted with Carter’s campaign website management, to include Carter’s biography.
- Per sworn statements and reviewed email communications, GC Fetterman knew of Carter’s “ghost” candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.
- Per sworn statements and reviewed records, GC Fetterman assisted with Carter’s campaign by facilitating the creation of the campaign website.
- Per sworn statements and text communications, GC Fetterman communicated with the companies Impressive Click/The Firefly Group via email and telephone, to create Carter’s campaign website in furtherance of Carter’s “ghost” candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.
- Per sworn statements and reviewed records, GC Fetterman assisted with Carter’s campaign by facilitating the creation of the campaign mailers.
- Per sworn statements and text communications, GC Fetterman communicated with the company Direct Mail Systems Inc. via email and telephone, to create Carter’s campaign mailers in furtherance of Carter’s “ghost” candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.

- Per sworn statements and text communications, Sheriff Mascara instructed Hardman to obtain \$4,477.97 through cashing 8 checks from the Carter Campaign.
- Per sworn statements, Sheriff Mascara instructed Hardman to have the aforementioned 8 checks falsely reported in financial records submitted to the SOE for Carter's campaign account, as either poll watcher (6 instances), promotional event (1 instance), or promotional BBQ (1 instance).
- Per sworn statements, the aforementioned funds obtained from the 8 cashed checks, were used to pay Carter (between \$4,400 and \$4,600) for his registration/participation as a "ghost" candidate, in the 2020 St. Lucie County Republican primary race.

Ken Mascara

Based on the facts developed during OEI's investigation regarding St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara, it can be determined that:

On multiple instances from May 15, 2020 through November 3, 2020, Ken Mascara, while being the incumbent St. Lucie County Sheriff and seeking re-election for said office in the 2020 election cycle, aided and promoted Kevin Carter's "ghost" candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race, to wit: Ken Mascara orchestrated and facilitated Carter's candidacy in part with a \$10,000 contribution to Carter's campaign. In addition, Ken Mascara participated in the management for the social and financial aspects of the campaign. Ken Mascara performed said actions in order to beat established Republican candidate Rich Williams in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

On May 27, 2020, Ken Mascara acting as a principal, aided, abetted, counseled, hired, or otherwise procured such offense to be committed, to wit: Ken Mascara provided a \$10,000 contribution to Bill Hardman and ordered him to make multiple contributions in the name of another for Kevin Carter's "ghost" candidacy in the Republican primary for St. Lucie County Sheriff. Such contributions in the name of another occurred on 11 separate instances between May 29, 2020 and July 23, 2020; which were falsely reported to the Florida Department of State (DOS).

On May 27, 2020, Ken Mascara, acting as a principal, aided, abetted, counseled, hired, or otherwise procured such offense to be committed, to wit: Ken Mascara made an aggregate cash contribution in excess of \$50, when he provided \$10,000 to Bill Hardman and ordered him to deposit the funds in Kevin Carter's "ghost" candidacy in the Republican primary for St. Lucie County Sheriff. Such contributions, by another, occurred on 11 separate instances for amounts of either \$500 or \$1,000, between May 29, 2020 and July 23, 2020; which were falsely reported to the DOS.

On October 14, 2020, Ken Mascara, acting as a principal, aided, abetted, counseled, hired, or otherwise procured such offense to be committed, when he knowingly and willfully ordered Hardman to make a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, in a matter within the jurisdiction of the DOS, to wit: the Campaign Treasurer's Report submitted to the DOS on October 30, 2020, which contained false information of 8 separate expenses. The expenses included 6 instances in which checks in the amounts of \$595, were provided to individuals in exchange for the same amount returned in cash. Two additional checks were similarly cashed for the amounts of \$602.97 and \$400 respectively, from the restaurant Moonswiner's Bar-B-Q.

On multiple instances from April 30, 2020 through October 14, 2020, Ken Mascara used a two-way communication device to facilitate or further the commission of a felony, to wit: communicated via mobile device with Bill Hardman regarding the formation and financial management of Kevin Carter's 2020 "ghost" candidacy in the Republican primary for St. Lucie County Sheriff.

Kevin Carter

On multiple instances from May 15, 2020 through November 3, 2020, Kevin Carter, knowingly conspired, confederated, abetted, and aided Ken Mascara while he was the incumbent St. Lucie County Sheriff and seeking re-election for said office in the 2020 election cycle, to facilitate Kevin Carter's "ghost" candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race, to wit: agreeing to participate as a "ghost candidate and assisting/advising campaign. Kevin Carter performed said actions in order to assist Ken Mascara to siphon votes from established Republican candidate Rich Williams in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

On June 30, 2020 and July 18, 2020, Kevin Carter used a two-way communication device to facilitate or further the commission of a felony, to wit: communicated via email with Bill Hardman regarding the managing of the webpage and propaganda mailers for the Kevin Carter 2020 "ghost" candidacy in the St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

Adam Fetterman

On multiple instances from May 15, 2020 through November 3, 2020, Adam Fetterman, knowingly conspired, confederated, abetted, and aided Ken Mascara while he was the incumbent St. Lucie County Sheriff and seeking re-election for said office in the 2020 election cycle, to facilitate Kevin Carter's "ghost" candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race, to wit: assisting/advising on Carter's campaign pertaining to media/advertising and finance. Adam Fetterman performed said actions in order to assist Ken Mascara to siphon votes from established Republican candidate Rich Williams in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

On multiple instance from June 18, 2020 through July 29, 2020, Adam Fetterman used a two-way communication device to facilitate or further the commission of a felony, to wit: communicated via email and telephone with Ken Mascara, Kevin Carter, Bill Hardman, Stacy Rainieri of The Firefly Group, and Mark Zubaly of Direct Mail Systems Inc. regarding the creation of the webpage and propaganda mailers for Kevin Carter's 2020 "ghost" candidacy in the St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

Bryan Beaty

On multiple instances from May 15, 2020 through November 3, 2020, Bryan Beaty, knowingly conspired, confederated, abetted, and aided Ken Mascara while he was the incumbent St. Lucie County Sheriff and seeking re-election for said office in the 2020 election cycle, to facilitate Kevin Carter's "ghost" candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race, to wit: assisting/advising on Carter's candidate registration and assisting in the management of the campaign website. Bryan Beaty performed said actions in order to assist Ken Mascara to siphon votes from established Republican candidate Rich Williams in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

On July 18, 2020, Brian Beaty used a two-way communication device to facilitate or further the commission of a felony, to wit: communicated via email with Bill Hardman regarding the biographical information used for Kevin Carter’s 2020 “ghost” candidacy in the St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

Keith Pearson

On multiple instances from May 15, 2020 through November 3, 2020, Keith Pearson, knowingly conspired, confederated, abetted, and aided Ken Mascara while he was the incumbent St. Lucie County Sheriff and seeking re-election for said office in the 2020 election cycle, to facilitate Kevin Carter’s “ghost” candidacy in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race, to wit: assisting to create Carter’s campaign propaganda signs, which he assisted in placing through St. Lucie County. Keith Pearson performed said actions in order to assist Ken Mascara to siphon votes from established Republican candidate Rich Williams in the 2020 St. Lucie County Sheriff race.

SECTION III

STATE ATTORNEY

On September 15, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis, signed Executive Order number 21-201, which transferred all authorities related to the prosecution of the matters described within this Investigative Summary to the State Attorney’s Office in and for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. Pursuant to the Executive Order, a copy of this document, all related Investigative Reports and corresponding documents were provided to the appropriate State Attorney’s Office for their review and prosecutorial determination.