

Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 18:50:51 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Cherokee County Sheriff Office Public Records Request
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 4:01:56 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Holly Christy
To: AO Records
Attachments: AmericanOversightPublicRecordsRequest.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello Ms. Haddix:

I am general counsel for the Office of the Cherokee County Sheriff.

I am writing in response to your public records request dated 20 March 2024.

Please be advised that Rebecca Costello, nor the Office of the Sheriff, is the holder of the county email records. Cherokee County is.

Regardless, Ms. Costello has conducted a search of said email records that she has access to in an attempt to produce the documents requested.

Please find a complete copy of the documents she found attached hereto.

Do not hesitate to contact me for further inquiry or assistance.

Sincerely,

Logo



Holly Christy
Esquire

T: 828-361-7860 | **M:** 828-361-1181

E: holly@thechristylawfirm.com | www.thechristylawfirm.com

35 Central Street | Murphy, NC, 28906

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March 20, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Cherokee County
Office of the Sheriff
75 Peachtree St.
Murphy, NC 28906
Rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov

Re: Public Records Act Request

Dear Public Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Act, as codified at North Carolina General Statutes ch. 132, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records as promptly as possible:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) Sheriff Dustin Smith and Chief Deputy Justin Jacobs and (b) the external individuals and entities listed below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in the listed domains).

External Individuals and Entities:

- a. Anyone communicating on behalf of Protect America Now – **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**
- b. Anyone communicating on behalf of United Sovereign Americans (@unite4freedom.com) **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**
- c. Anyone communicating on behalf of Citizens for a Better America (citizensforabetteramerica.com) **emails attached**
- d. Anyone communicating on behalf of the 1776 Restoration Movement (1776rm.com) **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**
- e. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Cherokee Jural Assembly **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**
- f. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Convention of States (conventionofstates.com) **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**
- g. Barry County, Michigan Sheriff Dar Leaf **See attached**
- h. Catherine Engelbrecht, Chelsea Magee, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of True the Vote (truethevote.org, truethevote.com) **emails received attach no response from Sheriff**
- i. Klickitat County, Washington Sheriff Bob Songer **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**
- j. Richard Mack, Sam Bushman, and/or anyone else communicating on behalf of the Constitutional Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association (cspoa.org) **See attached**

k. Rockingham County, North Carolina Sheriff Samuel Scott Page **nothing on search from Sheriff PC**



1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005 | AmericanOversight.org

1. Rep. Chuck Edwards

Please provide all responsive records from June 1, 2023 through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- § Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- § Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- § Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Public Records Act.¹
- § In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- § Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

¹ See Atty. Gen. Josh Stein, *North Carolina Open Government Guide* at 22 (2019), <https://ncdoj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-Open-Government-Guide-2.pdf> (“Emails about official business are public records even if they are sent using the personal email account of an employee or official.”).

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.com.²

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Elizabeth Haddix at records@americanoversight.org or (252) 359-7424 ext. 1031.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Haddix
Elizabeth Haddix on
behalf of American
Oversight

² American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,300 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited March 18, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited March 18, 2024).

Dustin Smith

From: mscscrawface <neopaladin54@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Kress@co.douglas.or.us; rbertalotto@heyburncity.org; boice@co.douglas.or.us; Lorpolicecomplaints@cityoflorain.org; mayors.office@mauicounty.gov; internalaffairs@pd.boston.gov; police@everettwa.gov; rchandler@cityofsenatobiams.gov; mdefore@cityofsenatobiams.gov; DCGlobalWarmingCoalition@gmail.com; christine.shirley@dlcd.oregon.gov; dlcd.info@dlcd.oregon.gov; access@auroragov.org; Sen.DennisLinthicum@oregonlegislature.gov; lcpdinfo@las-cruces.org; emmae@spokesman.com; mitchell_fallis@cityoflorain.org; mary_springowski@cityoflorain.org; ocpd@orangecityfl.gov; mgrobinson@hazelwoodmo.org; jfhudanick@hazelwoodmo.org; wchoops@hazelwoodmo.org; rmaubuchon@hazelwoodmo.org; dwryan@hazelwoodmo.org; kmwadlow@hazelwoodmo.org; lmatlock@hazelwoodmo.org; whtaylor@hazelwoodmo.org; rcsmith@hazelwoodmo.org; jmhatton@hazelwoodmo.org; rgomez@aptx.gov; place1@aptx.gov; place2@aptx.gov; place3@aptx.gov; place4@aptx.gov; Christi.Fraga@cityofdoral.com; Oscar.Puig@cityofdoral.com; Rafael.Pineyro@cityofdoral.com; Maureen.Porras@cityofdoral.com; Digna.Cabral@cityofdoral.com; consulardep@sanfrancisco.mfa.gov.il; consular@washington.mfa.gov.il; info@hias.org; bcc1cwhitehurst@sjcfl.us; bcc2sarnold@sjcfl.us; bcc3ralaimo@sjcfl.us; bcc4kjooseph@sjcfl.us; bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us; mayor@las-cruces.org; kgandara@las-cruces.org; tstuve@las-cruces.org; bgraham@las-cruces.org; jbencomo@las-cruces.org; bcorran@las-cruces.org; yflores@las-cruces.org; Dimacchia, Tony; Beth_Henley@cityoflorain.org; Victoria_Kempton@cityoflorain.org; pam_carter@cityoflorain.org; Dan_Nutt@cityoflorain.org; joanne_moon@cityoflorain.org; Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org; cory_shawver@cityoflorain.org; joshua_thornberry@cityoflorain.org; policeprofessionalstandards@myclearwater.com; policepio@cstx.gov; Brian.Aungst@myclearwater.com; Lina.Teixeira@myclearwater.com; Brian.Bunker@myclearwater.com; Kathleen.Beckman@myclearwater.com; David.Allbritton@myclearwater.com; Mark.Bunker@myclearwater.com; jfitch@clutepd.com; mgarcia@clutepd.com; jhouk@clutepd.com; trujillo@lasosheriff.org; navarette@lasosheriff.org; rsantistevan@lasosheriff.org; Matthew.Wallace@brevardfl.gov; lcravens@texascitytx.gov; Kevin Ryan, Covenant House; Doug Owen; tips@polksheriff.org; sheriff@clark.wa.gov; sheriff@co.portage.wi.us; policeoversight@austintexas.gov; ccc@cabq.gov; Rep.SherrieSprenger@oregonlegislature.gov; Rep.ShellyBoshartDavis@oregonlegislature.gov; Shark Central; malbertson@co.lake.or.us; Carol Bundy; Rep.CarlWilson@oregonlegislature.gov; cartereport1@gmail.com; mbanta@registerguard.com; n.holste@cityofhoodriver.gov; e.mason@cityofhoodriver.gov; m.morgan@cityofhoodriver.gov; a.frazer@cityofhoodriver.gov; COHPoliceChief@cityofhenderson.com; ContactHenderson@cityofhenderson.com; clocke@cityofcentralia.org; info@itiswritten.com; Gabby Giffords; info@stanpulliam.org; info@ceasefireoregon.org; info@cityofmiltonwv.com; Mike Kobliska; info@asp.arkansas.gov; bill.sadler@asp.arkansas.gov; marcus.daniels@asp.arkansas.gov; jeff.whitlock@asp.arkansas.gov; elizabeth.head@asp.arkansas.gov; bridget.white@asp.arkansas.gov; umbergerj@deland.org; pleusm@deland.org; contact@therealnews.com; Taylor Ricks; usarmy.jblm.imcom.mbx.pao-public@army.mil;

To:

Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov; DanGelber@miamibeachfl.gov; ⚠️ **WARNI**
NG ⚠️; A Lightning War for Liberty; waynejones@miamibeachfl.gov;
paulacosta@miamibeachfl.gov; daviddeelaespriella@miamibeachfl.gov;
enriquedoce@miamibeachfl.gov; samirguerrero@miamibeachfl.gov;
richardclements@miamibeachfl.gov; jwhanlin@co.douglas.or.us; catinfo2020
@gmail.com; AskDOJ@usdoj.gov; Denver PIO; PIO@lvmpd.com;
jd.mcdonald.jd@gmail.com; ccd@cityofroseburg.org; Jeff Eichenbusch;
prpio@cityofroseburg.org; psd.office.of.the.director@hawaii.gov;
pdpios@elpasotexas.gov; DPDIAD@dallascityhall.com; dfrquestions@dallascityhall.com;
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Rep.RaquelMooreGreen@oregonlegislature.gov; Rep Hayden;
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cosborne@crowleypolice.com; The Liberty Crier;
Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@state.or.us; sen.dallasheard@oregonlegislature.gov;
Sen.ArtRobinson@oregonlegislature.gov; Office of U.S. Senator MarshaBlackburn;
Senator Jeff Merkley; Sen Boquist; Sen.FloydProzanski@state.or.us;
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police@fortluptonco.gov; skaneta@weldgov.com; mknee@weldgov.com;
mroles@weldgov.com; jmoylan@weldgov.com; kvalnews@kval.com;
comments@kobi5.com; Curt Kuehn; news@koin.com; newstips@kdrv.com;
akubisch@tfff.org; melder@tfff.org; mellis@co.wasco.or.us; Nick Hill, Marion Polk First;
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ms.gov; cthrasher@dps.ms.gov; governor@govreeves.ms.gov;
citymgt.info@mesaaz.gov; cityofalbuquerque; citycouncil@cityofroseburg.org;
rpd.mailbox@cityofroseburg.org; info@cityofroseburg.org; t.mills@ci.sutherlin.or.us;
pdinfo@myrtlecreek.org; nelson@pmchurch.org; nehalem.clark@usda.gov;
mendotapd@mendotapolice.com; wcpd@wolfecitytx.org; info@wolfecitytx.org;
khofmann@surfsidebeach.org; amiller@surfsidebeach.org;
EPerryLambert@newhavencnt.gov; gnelson@cityofportwentworth.com;
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mstephens@cityofportwentworth.com; rbright@cityofportwentworth.com;
gjones@cityofportwentworth.com; bucksdoc@buckscounty.org; PIO@troopers.ny.gov;
crimetip@troopers.ny.gov; gibsonm@cityofmounddora.com; PoliceDept@ci.mount-
dora.fl.us; lundayc@cityofmounddora.com; info@panforall.org;
bunkaportland@se.mofa.go.jp; info@se.mofa.go.jp; jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp;
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oha@oregonhunters.org; BEtienne@newhavencnt.gov; betsyhammond@oregonian.com;
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To: billmeyer@bicoastal.media; billmeyertalks@yahoo.com; hello@spektralinkfilms.com; privacy@police.vic.gov.au; press@google.com; foi@police.vic.gov.au; rsbmarketing@police.vic.gov.au; vsa@justice.vic.gov.au; SRPSupport@fda.hhs.gov; governorrn.desantis@eog.myflorida.com; jahunt@charlestonwvpolice.org; scott.dempsey@charlestonwvpolice.org; john.garten@charlestonwvpolice.org; brian.griggs@charlestonwvpolice.org; rspeakman@circlevillepolice.com; sbaer@circlevillepolice.com; CityCouncilEmail@troy.mi.gov; ethan.baker@troy.mi.gov; edna.abraham@troy.mi.gov; david.hamilton@troy.mi.gov; theresa.brooks@troy.mi.gov; rachamberlain@troy.mi.gov; ann.ericksongault@troy.mi.gov; ellen.hodorek@troy.mi.gov; johnb@caravantomidnight.com; vanpd@cityofvancouver.us; veritastips@protonmail.com; swilson@trentonpolice.net; usarmy.campbell.imcom-atlantic.list.garrison-pao@mail.mil; Jenkins, RobertNorris (Bob) CIV USARMY IMCOM ATLANTIC (USA); policemedia@fortworthtexas.gov; kcstookey@yahoo.com; GeyerJ@wdsd.org; SaylorE@wdsd.org; MitchellJ@wdsd.org; WestB@wdsd.org; chusted@sedonaaz.gov; sfoley@sedonaaz.gov; rlwesenb@co.douglas.or.us

Subject: WEEKEND ::::::::::

CAUTION: External Sender

This email originated from outside of Cherokee County Government. Please do not open links or attachments or respond to requests for information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Forward suspicious emails to phishing@cherokeecounty-nc.gov

Republicans Refuse To Impeach Mayorkas After Jews Call It Anti

Semitic >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/5hPvd52ZyBJq/> <<<< All I'll say is, "FUCK around and FUCK around, pretty soon" ????

EARNING THE HATE >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/3AENFHPQLUc/> <<<< WELL GEE folks YA know All those illegal aliens we brought in here to steal all your stuff and drive you out ????

Well we just now figured out that they want to kill US, and we need you to help us and follow our orders, and protect us and OUR families PISS on EM folks And besides, WHAT kind of PISS WIT is still listening to ANY fed ?????

SEND TO ALL PARENTS >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/iDLFowaY4fGP/> <<<< SHARE THAT

Check out Nancy >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/0GmaEmbU51DA/> <<<< **EARNING THE HATE** >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/V64Jly3aT9Y/> <<<<

Let's Tell A Story With Moving Pictures >>>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkDWS4k7grg> <<<< Were you Entertained

???? **DOLLAR_VIGILANTE** >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/XNJ6woiWY73n/> <<<< **The psyop**

?? >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/gAWVs4GT69ZK/> <<<< **EARNING THE HATE** >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/eevm3iGtfZQ/> <<<<

THIS is HOW YOU DEAL WITH THEM FOLKS >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/fxHLTU6k3UYa/> <<<< The WORLD is waiting on YOU AMERICA

SILENT WARS >>>> https://ugetube.com/watch/silent-war-ep-6362-jews-threaten-9-11-2-0-gaza-hospital-rotting-babes-the-revolt-has-begun_fvjGojgQHpe12so.html <<<<

BACKYARD GARDENS BANNED ?? WILL YOU COMPLY >>>> https://ugetube.com/watch/back-yard-gardens-banned-will-you-comply_odNncMxfut4wQ1W.html <<<< HELL NO

Let the fools TRY to enforce it EARNING THE HATE >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/B6pAplxueFg/> <<<< As the man says, " They have ONE JOB, to uphold, defend, and secure OUR RIGHTS, and they have FAILED , MISERABLY ."

FROM HAWK >>>> <https://mediaarchives.gsradio.net/survive2thrive/020924.mp3> <<<<

EVERY ISRAELI ACCUSATION IS A CONFESSION >>>> <https://www.bitchute.com/video/Q7PVmF0zYGfX/> <<<< They ALWAYS Try to Project the crimes they are committing onto others while scaming we are the victim

Just like pigs yelling, stop resisting as a dozen of them murder you

FROM THE TRENCHES >>>> <http://fromthetrenchesworldreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-02-09-1957.mp3> <<<<

SHARE THIS FAR AND WIDE

Dustin Smith

From: Jessica Pishko <jesspish@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Dustin Smith; Rebecca Costello
Subject: Media Request: The Assembly

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@cherokeecounty-nc.gov This warning was created by Cherokee County's I.T. Department.

Dear Sheriff Smith,

We met last weekend at the CSPOA training event. I am writing a story for The Assembly and wanted to reach out to see if you had time to talk on the phone.

If not, I will put a few questions in this email in case you have time to respond. Thank you.

1) Citizens for a Better America described you as the "first constitutional sheriff" in the state. Do you consider yourself a "constitutional" sheriff by Richard Mack's definition?

2) Do you have a response to Churck Edwards' letter of praise to Richard Mack?

3) Do you have a response to the local Democratic leadership, who issued a press release condemning the event? Here was their press release, in part:

There is no place in Western North Carolina for anti-American hate groups like the Oath Keepers and others who had a hand in producing last Saturday's event in Cherokee County. We do not welcome their seditious ideology here in our community. We will not remain silent as the Sheriff, and those he welcomes, seek to destroy our way of life from within."

4) a resident of your county said that she felt unsafe given the event added to various other political aspects of the county (mainly the signage at Cherokee Guns). Does that concern you?

5) My piece also mentions the shooting of Jason Kloepfer. Do you have anything you want to say about the shooting or his lawsuit?

Thanks for the time.

Best,
Jessica

--

Jessica Pishko
jesspish@gmail.com
jessicapishko.com
sheriffs.substack.com
917-566-0235

Dustin Smith

From: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Lilly Knoepp
Cc: Rebecca Costello; Dustin Smith
Subject: Re: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

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Hi, Lilly. I can confirm that Sheriff Smith is scheduled to be one of the speakers at the event. For all other questions, I refer you to the agency that sent out the press release. Thanks. Enjoy the rest of the week.

Penny Ray
The Christy Law Firm

From: Lilly Knoepp <lknopp@bpr.org>
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 9:07 AM
To: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Cc: rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov <rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov>
Subject: RE: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

Hello,

I just wanted to check in on confirmation of this event hosted by Sheriff Smith?

Thanks so much!

Best,
Lilly

Lilly Knoepp ([she/her](#)) | Regional Reporter
Blue Ridge Public Radio - NPR for Western North Carolina
73 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 | O: 828.210.4834 | C: 828.421.7773
lknopp@bpr.org | www.bpr.org

From: Lilly Knoepp
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 11:43 AM
To: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Cc: rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov
Subject: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

Hi Penny,

I hope you are doing well. I received a press release about Sheriff Smith hosting a training next week for the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

Could you confirm that the sheriff hosting this training? Would the sheriff be able to speak with me about this event?

Here's the description of the event from the press release:

On September 9, the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA) plans to hold a day-long training event for law enforcement and a half-day seminar for local citizens titled "The County Sheriff, America's Last Hope," in collaboration with Cherokee County Sheriff Dustin Smith and local conservative grassroots organization "Citizens for A Better America." The event will feature speakers, including CSPOA founder Richard Mack, Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf (Michigan), and Cherokee County Sheriff Smith.

Thanks so much!
Best,

Lilly Knoepp (she/her) | Regional Reporter
Blue Ridge Public Radio - NPR for Western North Carolina
73 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 | O: 828.210.4834 | C: 828.421.7773
lknoepp@bpr.org | www.bpr.org

Dustin Smith

From: Sheriff Mack's CSPOA <newsletter@cspoa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Dustin Smith
Subject: Last chance to register for The County Sheriff - America's Last Hope

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Click here to [View as Webpage](#).

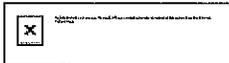


Cherokee County NC Sheriff Dustin Smith - Citizens for a Better America



The County Sheriff - America's Last Hope

You are invited to a special event on September 9, 2023 from 9am to 5pm



Dear Friends,

This is Sheriff Richard Mack, founder and president of CSPOA. On behalf of Citizens for a Better America and Sheriff Dustin Smith of Cherokee County, NC I'd like to extend a special invitation to all North Carolina Sheriffs and LEO's.

There has never been a time in American history that has been more vital for all government, yes, that includes LE, to return to the basics of Liberty and Civil Rights. All of us in Law Enforcement are required by solemn oath to protect the rights of the people we work for. How can we do that if we do not know what those rights are?

I want thank Sheriff Dustin Smith and Citizens for a Better America of North Carolina for co-sponsoring **"The County Sheriff-America's Last Hope" a unique event on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,** at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, **517 Hiwassee St., Murphy, North Carolina.** The public is invited to attend the morning session and lunch. The continued afternoon session is for sheriffs, peace officers, and public officials only.

[Click here to view the event flyer and registration link.](#)

Please register by Aug 29th

Most of this presentation is simply derived from a landmark Supreme Court case that several sheriffs won in 1997. Every sheriff and public official should be very familiar with this SCOTUS ruling and its historic significance for all LEO's. Sheriff Dar Leaf of Barry County, Michigan will be one of our featured speakers. All of you and your staff are invited to attend!

Recently we held this class in Western Tennessee for sheriffs and constables. Sheriff Jeff Box was there and said it was training that all law enforcement needs to have. "All public servants need to learn more about our Constitution. This is so important for our nation's police," Sheriff Box opined.

Sheriff Scott Williams from Coryell County, TX attended our training about two years ago. He googled CSPOA and Sheriff Mack when he was considering whether to attend the training. There was quite a bit of negative information which gave him second thoughts about attending. One of his constituents asked him to see for himself if the class was worthwhile, so he did. Afterwards, Sheriff Williams said it was the best training he had ever been to. Subsequently, Sheriff Williams became a regular speaker at other CSPOA training seminars all over the country.

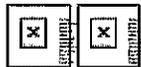
We ask each of you to do what Sheriff Williams did: come and see for yourself. We guarantee it will be worth your time! We hope to see you there.

Sheriff Richard Mack (Ret)



The photo above is from the 2013 CSPOA Convention.

www.cspoa.org



CSPOA - Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association | PO Box 567, Higley, AZ 85236

[Unsubscribe \[dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov\]\(mailto:dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov\)](mailto:dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov)

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Sent by newsletter@cspoa.org powered by



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Dustin Smith

From: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Dustin Smith
Cc: Justin Jacobs
Subject: FW: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

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What do you think about this, Sheriff?

Penny Ray
The Christy Law Firm

From: Lilly Knoepp <lknoepp@bpr.org>
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 at 11:43 AM
To: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Cc: rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov <rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov>
Subject: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

Hi Penny,

I hope you are doing well. I received a press release about Sheriff Smith hosting a training next week for the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

Could you confirm that the sheriff hosting this training? Would the sheriff be able to speak with me about this event?

Here's the description of the event from the press release:

On September 9, the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA) plans to hold a day-long training event for law enforcement and a half-day seminar for local citizens titled "The County Sheriff, America's Last Hope," in collaboration with Cherokee County Sheriff Dustin Smith and local conservative grassroots organization "Citizens for A Better America." The event will feature speakers, including CSPOA founder Richard Mack, Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf (Michigan), and Cherokee County Sheriff Smith.

Thanks so much!
Best,

Lilly Knoepp (she/her) | Regional Reporter
Blue Ridge Public Radio - NPR for Western North Carolina
73 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 | O: 828.210.4834 | C: 828.421.7773
lknoepp@bpr.org | www.bpr.org

Dustin Smith

From: Leroy Moffitt <rlmoffitt641@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 11:19 PM
To: Leroy Moffitt
Subject: Sheriff Richard Mack's Seminar in NC
Attachments: Sheriff Mack's Seminar in NC.pdf

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Sept. 9, 2023
The County Sheriff/America's Last Hope

Sheriff Richard Mack (ret) of Constitutional Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association (CSPOA) and Sheriff Dar Leaf of Barry Co. Michigan will be presenters at a unique event that every sheriff, peace officer, and public official should attend! This is all about the true power of the constitution and how to apply it in today's world, ending tyranny across the country, protecting your rights and freedoms, why sheriffs are so important and much more.

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 517 Hiwassee St., Murphy, NC. A registration fee of \$70 will include continental breakfast, famous Jim's Smokin' Que lunch and break snacks. Limited scholarships are available. The public is invited to attend the morning session and lunch. The continued afternoon session is for sheriffs, peace officers, and public officials only. Cherokee County Sheriff Dustin Smith will introduce Sheriff Mack and Sheriff Leaf.

To register use the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#) on the attached flyer or go to cspoa.org events to register. Register before August 29, 2023.

Sponsored by Citizens For A Better America

For more information contact the CSPOA office at (602) 610-1566

Dustin Smith

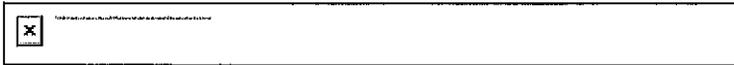
From: Rep. Jon Hardister <jon-jonhardister.com@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Dustin Smith
Subject: Help Us Close The Deal!

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Rep. Jon Hardister NC Labor Commissioner



Help Us Close The Deal!

The Republican Primary Election is tomorrow, March 5th. If you haven't voted yet, this is your last chance to make your voice heard. I would be honored to have your vote.

As your Labor Commissioner, I will focus on workplace safety, workforce development, and preventing overreach from the government. We will apply a common sense approach to how the department operates, support free enterprise, and ensure that NC remains open for business.



Early voting ended last Saturday. Polls will be open tomorrow, March 5th, from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Please make a plan to go vote and encourage your friends and family to do the same!

Ready To Serve

With over 10 years of experience in the NC House, and over 20 years of experience in the private sector, I am uniquely qualified for this position.

As a member of the NC House, and as the Majority Whip, I helped to lead the charge in advancing our conservative agenda and overriding Governor Roy Cooper's vetoes a record 42 times. I have also had the privilege of playing a role in reducing our taxes by over \$1 billion, balancing our budget, and making NC the #1 state for business.

In addition, I have worked in the private sector for over 20 years, where I learned the importance of meeting the bottom line. I know what it is like to sign the front and back of a paycheck. This experience is important for someone who seeks to lead the Labor Department.

I am ready to put my skills and experience to work for you as your next Labor Commissioner.

Proven Fighter

Another important attribute that I offer is the fact that I am a proven fighter. I have won six straight elections to the NC House in a very competitive legislative district.

The Democrats have spent millions of dollars trying to defeat me over the last decade, but I stood my ground and delivered a victory in six straight election cycles. I have proven that I know how to fight and win.

Braxton Winston is the Democratic nominee for Labor Commissioner, and he is the most radical candidate to ever seek this position. He is a far-left, BLM activist who was inspired by Bernie Sanders. His socialist agenda would wreck our state's economy.

If you nominate me, I will ensure that we secure a victory and continue to keep our state on the right track. I will oppose the far-left agenda and maintain a common sense approach to how the Labor Department operates.



The Democrats have nominated Braxton Winston for Labor Commissioner. His agenda is far too radical for workers and businesses in our state. I will ensure that we defeat him and secure a victory in November.

Endorsements

Our campaign has been endorsed by current NC Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson, NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, over 45 legislators, and more than a dozen sheriffs across our state. While I am honored to have their support, the endorsement that I want most of all is yours -- the people of this great state. You can read a full list of our endorsements [here](#).



It is an honor to have the endorsement of current NC Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson. He is a true statesman and it is a privilege to have his support.

Let's Get Out The Vote!

Please make a plan to go out and vote tomorrow (Tuesday, March 5th). You can also invite your friends and family to vote as well. Feel free to forward this email to anyone who may be interested in voting and supporting our campaign.

While I am committed to winning this election, I need your help to make it happen. It would be a privilege to serve, and I would be honored to have your vote!

Donations

If you would like to donate to our campaign to help us run last-minute ads and reach voters, you can do so online by [clicking here](#). Any donation that you are able to make will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Thank you for any support that you can offer!

Thank You

To all of those out there who have supported me on this journey, I say thank you. It takes a team to win a campaign, and I am thankful for everyone who has offered their support. I will continue working hard until the polls close at 7:30 PM tomorrow to earn the trust of the voters.

I hope to see you at the polls!

Sincerely,
Rep. Jon Hardister
Deputy House Majority Whip

Candidate, NC Labor Commissioner



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Not funded by taxpayer dollars

Jon Hardister for NC | PO Box 4113, Greensboro, NC 27404

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Sent by jon@jonhardister.com powered by



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Dustin Smith

From: Rep. Jon Hardister <jon-jonhardister.com@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Dustin Smith
Subject: Voting Has Started / Help Us Win!

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Rep. Jon Hardister NC Labor Commissioner



Voting Has Started / Help Us Win!

Early voting is underway across North Carolina. It will continue through March 2nd, and the primary election is on March 5th. We are gaining momentum in our campaign, but we need your help to secure victory.

Momentum Continues

We are gaining momentum as we approach the primary election. Our campaign continues to receive high-profile endorsements, and we have won several straw polls across the state.

Of course, we cannot take our momentum for granted. We must continue working hard and fight for every vote until the polls close on March 5th. Please read further to find out how you can help. I would be honored to have you on our team!



The graphic above shows us winning a straw poll at the Randolph Freedom Rally hosted by the Randolph County Young Republicans in Asheboro. I am humbled by the strong showing of support.

Why Vote Hardister?

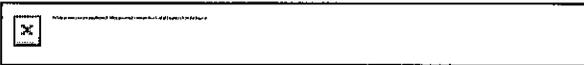
Here is the message that I am taking to the voters: I have the skills, experience, and tenacity that it takes to lead the NC Labor Department. I would break it down like this:

- **Proven Track Record.** I have a proven conservative track record as a leader in the NC House over the last 12 years. During this time, I have played a role in paying off \$3.5 billion in debt, creating a \$5 billion budget surplus, reducing our tax rates by over \$1 billion, and making North Carolina #1 for business according to *CNBC*. I also led the charge in helping to override Governor Roy Cooper's vetoes a record 42 times, save women's sports, enact voter ID, pass the Parent's Bill of Rights, and more.
- **Private Sector Experience.** In addition to over a decade of experience in public service, I have worked in the private sector for over 20 years. My family owns a mortgage company that is a small business and I have worked in residential real estate construction. During this time, I have seen the ups-and-downs of the economy and learned how to meet the bottom line. I understand the challenges that go along with running a business and the discipline that it requires.
- **Proven Fighter.** Over the last decade, the Democratic Party has spent millions of dollars trying to prevent me from getting re-elected to the NC House. They fought hard to oust me from office, but I stood my ground, resisted their attacks, and came out on top. I have also proven to be an effective legislator who opposed government overreach and fought to reopen schools and businesses during Covid.

For these reasons and more, I humbly submit that I am the most qualified candidate in the race for NC Labor Commissioner. I will continue working hard to make my case to voters across our state in the days ahead!

Reaching Voters Across North Carolina

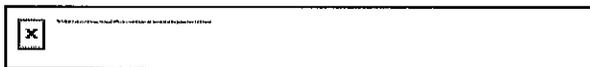
In addition to traveling the state, we are raising funds to help us advertise our message to voters. Our ads are being run on TV, radio, and digital platforms. Below is one of our ads that you may see on the airwaves.



Look for our ad on TV and digital platforms across the state. If you want to help us increase our ad performance, please consider donating to our campaign to help increase our exposure. You can donate by clicking [here](#).

Help Us Greet Voters

We are recruiting volunteers to help us greet voters at polling places during early voting and on primary day (March 5th). This involves holding signs and handing fliers to voters as they come to the polls and asking for their support. If you are interested in helping, please send an email to info@JonHardister.com and we will get you signed up!



In the photo above I am greeting voters at an early voting location in Greenville. We are going to work hard to earn every vote until the polls close on March 5th!

Traveling the State of North Carolina

We are keeping a very busy travel schedule as we work to earn the Republican nomination for Labor Commissioner. Here are some images from across the state.



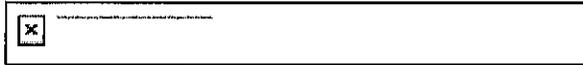
We had a great campaign rally at Caribsea Restaurant in Emerald Isle. Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support.



Lt. Governor Mark Robinson and his team were kind enough to invite me to speak at one of their campaign rallies in Ocean Isle. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss my campaign for NC Labor Commissioner.



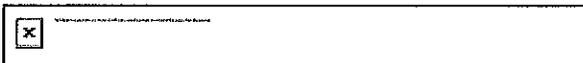
Here I am with 101-year-old WW2 veteran James Deal at a the Rowan County GOP Reagan Day dinner. It was an honor to meet a true American hero -- and he looked and acted much younger than his age!



In the photo above I am greeting a voter at an early voting site in Randolph County. I always enjoy speaking with voters in person, asking for their support, and listening to their concerns.



It is an honor to have the endorsement of former NC Supreme Court Justice Barbara Jackson. She served admirably on the NC Court of Appeals for six years and the NC Supreme Court for eight years. During this time, she proved to be a conservative justice who adhered to the constitutional principles and the rule of law.



Here I am visiting Ziehl-Abegg, a company in Winston-Salem that manufactures industrial fans. They are building a new 500,000 + SF facility that will sustain over 800 jobs. As Labor Commissioner, I will work with companies like this to promote safety and workforce development.



It is an honor to have the endorsement of Partners for Educational Freedom. As Labor Commissioner, I will work to promote access to quality education for students across our state, with a particular focus on trade skills and vocational education.

Endorsements

Our campaign has received several notable endorsements, with over 50 state legislators, sheriffs, and local elected officials across the state endorsing our campaign. Most notable, perhaps, is the endorsement of our current Labor Commissioner, Josh Dobson, who has chosen not to seek re-election.

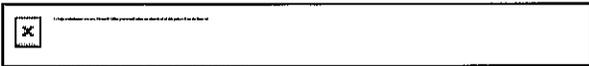
You can click [here](#) to see a full list of endorsements. Of course, the endorsement that I want most of all is yours -- the people of this great state.



Mark Your Calendars -- Get Out The Vote Rally

We are having a Get Out The Vote rally on February 28th in Greensboro. Special guests will include Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler -- and others.

Please see graphic below for details. We would be honored to have you!



Join Our Team

It would be an honor to have your support as we approach the primary election. Any donation you are able to make will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. You can donate online [here](#) or you can send a check to:

Jon Hardister for NC
PO Box 4113
Greensboro, NC 27404

Thank you for any support you can provide. Your financial assistance will help us take our message to the voters.

In addition to donations, you can also sign up to help us greet voters at the polls, display a yard sign, place a sticker on your car, etc. If you would like to volunteer with our campaign, please send an email to: info@JonHardister.com

I appreciate your support!

More Updates Coming Soon

As always, I will continue to do my best to keep you updated on the latest news and developments. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments or feedback.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jon Hardister
NC House Deputy Majority Whip
Candidate, NC Labor Commissioner



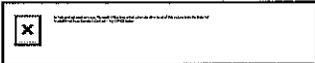
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[Unsubscribe dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov](mailto:dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov)

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Dustin Smith

From: Rep. Jon Hardister <jon-jonhardister.com@shared1.ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:56 AM
To: Dustin Smith
Subject: Campaign Update: We Are Gaining Momentum!

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**Rep. Jon Hardister
NC Labor Commissioner**



**Campaign Update: We Are
Gaining Momentum!**

Our team has been busy on the campaign trail. As of today, we are less than a month away from the Primary Election on March 5th, and early voting begins on February 15th. I am doing my best to travel the state and earn the trust of the voters as I seek the office of NC Labor Commissioner.

Here are some notable updates from the campaign trail.

We Are Winning

Last week there was a straw poll taken at the *Carolina Liberty Conference*, which was hosted by the *John Locke Foundation*. We won the straw poll for NC Labor Commissioner by a substantial margin, with 46.9 percent of the vote in our favor, with 12.2 percent going to second place. This is a strong showing

of support from folks who are highly engaged in conservative politics in North Carolina.



Candidate Forum in Charlotte -- We Won!

Last weekend I participated in a GOP candidate forum hosted by the *Hornet's Nest Republican Men's Club*, the *Mecklenburg County GOP*, and the *Union County GOP*. I am honored to have won the straw poll as the preferred candidate for NC Labor Commissioner, with those in the audience voting in our favor by a landslide. During the forum, I stayed true to my message about why I am the most qualified candidate to serve, with a solid conservative track record and more than 20 years of experience in the private sector.



On stage at the GOP candidate forum in Charlotte. I am honored to have received support from a decisive majority of those in the audience.

Securing Our Border

As we all know, our southern border is a disaster. The failed leadership of the Biden Administration has resulted in chaos at our border, with all states now being considered a "border state" - North Carolina included. The stories of human trafficking and illicit drug proliferation are real, and these dangers need to be dealt with.

That is why I started a petition urging Governor Roy Cooper and President Joe Biden to work with Texas Governor Greg Abbott to secure our southern border. This should not be a political issue. It is simply a matter of making sure that our nation is safe and secure and that immigration is done legally.

Sign our petition here:

<https://secure.anedot.com/jon-hardister-for-nc/texas-petition>



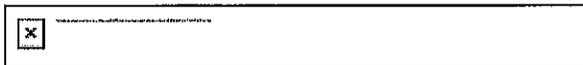
This photo was taken a few years ago when I visited Governor Greg Abbott's office while attending a legislative conference in Texas.

Snapshots From Across the State

The photos below were taken while visiting several places around the state. We have been non-stop on the campaign trail as we approach the March 5th primary election.



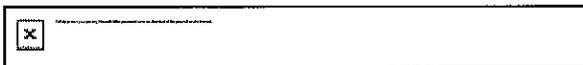
With Rep. Celeste Cairns at the NC Federation of Republican Women's conference at Wrightsville Beach. I am honored to have her support.



Visiting with workers in the kitchen at Bones Jones Bergers and Butchery in Morganton. Tyler "Bones" Jones, owner of the restaurant and a farmer, was kind enough to invite me to visit.



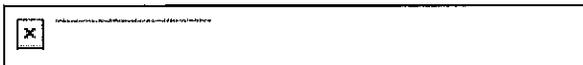
With Senator Carl Ford at the grand opening of the Rowan County GOP's new headquarters in Salisbury. Carl is a good friend and a great public servant.



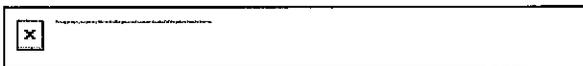
At the NC Ag Development Forum at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. As Labor Commissioner, I will work to support the hard-working farmers across our state.



Speaking at the Caldwell County Lincoln-Reagan dinner in Lenoir. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss our campaign.



With Rep. Donna White at the Johnston County Reagan Day dinner. She is a great public servant and I am honored to have her support.



With Senator Dean Proctor, who has chosen not to seek re-election to the NC Senate. He is an outstanding public servant and he will be missed. I am proud to have his support.

Delivering yard signs with my Dad in Randolph County. Let us know if you need a yard sign and we will get one to you.

We had a great campaign reception at the home of Ed and Melanie Broyhill in Winston-Salem. I am grateful for everyone who attended to show their support.

Endorsements

Our campaign has received the most endorsements in the race for NC Labor Commissioner. Several dozen legislators, several sheriffs, and many local elected officials have endorsed our campaign. Current Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson and Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler have also endorsed my candidacy.

While I am honored to have received these endorsements, and they are affirmation for my qualifications, the endorsement that I want most of all is yours -- the people of this great state. Click [here](#) to see a full list of endorsements.

It would be an honor to serve, and I hope to earn your vote on March 5th!

Join Our Team

It would be an honor to have your support as we approach the start of early voting. In donation you are able to make will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. You can donate online [here](#) or you can send a check to:

Jon Hardister for NC
PO Box 4113
Greensboro, NC 27404

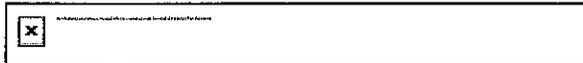
Thank you for any support you can provide. Your financial assistance will help us take our message to the voters!

More Updates Coming Soon

As always, I will continue to do my best to keep you updated on the latest news and developments. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments or feedback.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jon Hardister
NC House Deputy Majority Whip
Candidate, NC Labor Commissioner



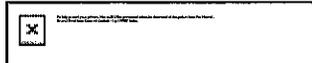
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Jon Hardister for NC | PO Box 4113, Greensboro, NC 27404

[Unsubscribe dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov](mailto:dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov)

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Dustin Smith

From: Thomas Fiedler <tfiedler@avlwatchdog.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 2:09 PM
To: Dustin Smith
Subject: Query from reporter about CSPOA

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Dear Sheriff Smith,

Hello from Tom Fiedler, a reporter with the Asheville Watchdog (avlwatchdog.org), a non-partisan news initiative based in Asheville. Would you consider speaking with me about your recent involvement with former Arizona Sheriff Richard Mack and your support for the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association? Another news reporter wrote that you are the first North Carolina sheriff to publicly affiliate with CSPOA, which would be the topic of an interview. I am researching a broader story focusing on Congressman Chuck Edwards' support for Sheriff Mack and CSPOA, which received public attention at the training you hosted in Murphy last month.

I'd be grateful for your input into the story and appreciate any consideration you can give. My email is tfiedler@avlwatchdog.org and my mobile phone is 305-788-5127 (for text and talk).

Respectfully,

Tom Fiedler

--
Reporter, The Asheville Watchdog (AVLWatchdog.org)
Dean emeritus, Boston University College of Communication
Former executive editor The Miami Herald

Phone: 305-788-5127



Dustin Smith

From: Thomas Fiedler <tfiedler@avlwatchdog.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Dustin Smith
Subject: Query from reporter about CSPOA

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Dear Sheriff Smith,

Hello from Tom Fiedler, a reporter with the Asheville Watchdog (avlwatchdog.org), a non-partisan news initiative based in Asheville. Would you consider speaking with me about your recent involvement with former Arizona Sheriff Richard Mack and your support for the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association? Another news reporter wrote that you are the first North Carolina sheriff to publicly affiliate with CSPOA, which would be the topic of an interview. I am researching a broader story focusing on Congressman Chuck Edwards' support for Sheriff Mack and CSPOA, which received public attention at the training you hosted in Murphy last month.

I'd be grateful for your input into the story and appreciate any consideration you can give. My email is tfiedler@avlwatchdog.org and my mobile phone is 305-788-5127 (for text and talk).

Respectfully,

Tom Fiedler

Reporter, The Asheville Watchdog (AVLWatchdog.org)
Dean emeritus, Boston University College of Communication
Former executive editor The Miami Herald
Phone: 305-788-5127



Dustin Smith

From: Jessica Pishko <jesspish@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Dustin Smith; Rebecca Costello
Subject: Media Request: The Assembly

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Dear Sheriff Smith,

We met last weekend at the CSPOA training event. I am writing a story for The Assembly and wanted to reach out to see if you had time to talk on the phone.

If not, I will put a few questions in this email in case you have time to respond. Thank you.

1) Citizens for a Better America described you as the "first constitutional sheriff" in the state. Do you consider yourself a "constitutional" sheriff by Richard Mack's definition?

2) Do you have a response to Churck Edwards' letter of praise to Richard Mack?

3) Do you have a response to the local Democratic leadership, who issued a press release condemning the event? Here was their press release, in part:

There is no place in Western North Carolina for anti-American hate groups like the Oath Keepers and others who had a hand in producing last Saturday's event in Cherokee County. We do not welcome their seditious ideology here in our community. We will not remain silent as the Sheriff, and those he welcomes, seek to destroy our way of life from within."

4) a resident of your county said that she felt unsafe given the event added to various other political aspects of the county (mainly the signage at Cherokee Guns). Does that concern you?

5) My piece also mentions the shooting of Jason Kloefer. Do you have anything you want to say about the shooting or his lawsuit?

Thanks for the time.

Best,
Jessica

--

Jessica Pishko
jesspish@gmail.com
jessicapishko.com
sheriffs.substack.com
917-566-0235

Dustin Smith

From: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Lilly Knoepp
Cc: Rebecca Costello; Dustin Smith
Subject: Re: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

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Hi, Lilly. I can confirm that Sheriff Smith is scheduled to be one of the speakers at the event. For all other questions, I refer you to the agency that sent out the press release. Thanks. Enjoy the rest of the week.

Penny Ray
The Christy Law Firm

From: Lilly Knoepp <lknoepp@bpr.org>
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 9:07 AM
To: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Cc: rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov <rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov>
Subject: RE: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

Hello,

I just wanted to check in on confirmation of this event hosted by Sheriff Smith?

Thanks so much!

Best,
Lilly

Lilly Knoepp (she/her) | Regional Reporter
Blue Ridge Public Radio - NPR for Western North Carolina
73 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 | O: 828.210.4834 | C: 828.421.7773
lknoepp@bpr.org | www.bpr.org

From: Lilly Knoepp
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 11:43 AM
To: Penny Ray <penny@thechristylawfirm.com>
Cc: rebecca.costello@cherokeecounty-nc.gov
Subject: Cherokee County training hosted by Sheriff - Blue Ridge Public Radio

Hi Penny,

I hope you are doing well. I received a press release about Sheriff Smith hosting a training next week for the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

Could you confirm that the sheriff hosting this training? Would the sheriff be able to speak with me about this event?

Here's the description of the event from the press release:

On September 9, the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA) plans to hold a day-long training event for law enforcement and a half-day seminar for local citizens titled "The County Sheriff, America's Last Hope," in collaboration with Cherokee County Sheriff Dustin Smith and local conservative grassroots organization "Citizens for A Better America." The event will feature speakers, including CSPOA founder Richard Mack, Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf (Michigan), and Cherokee County Sheriff Smith.

Thanks so much!
Best,

Lilly Knoepp (she/her) | Regional Reporter
Blue Ridge Public Radio - NPR for Western North Carolina
73 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 | O: 828.210.4834 | C: 828.421.7773
lknoepp@bpr.org | www.bpr.org

Dustin Smith

From: Freeman, Herbert M. (Mike) <Herbert.M.Freeman@dea.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:19 PM
To: Salter, Daniel; Watson, Ray (Sheriff); Johnson, Terry (Sheriff); Robison, John (Director); McBride, Chad (Sheriff); Stewart, James (Chief); Jones, David; Lineberry, Mark (Chief); Zack, David(Chief); Bruce, Jessica; Hampton, Charles (Dep. Chief; Peek, Tim (Asst.Chief); Schierbaum, Darin (Interim Chief); Mayton, Mark; Calhoun,Todd (Mst Sgt); Horton, Alan (LTC); Tanner, PJ (Sheriff); Baker,Jeremy (Chief Deputy); Lewis, Duane(Sheriff); Wright, Christopher (Chief); Gurley, Brandon; Brown, Noel (Sheriff); Miller, Quentin (Sheriff); abalog@burlingtonnc.gov; Rousseau, Lisa; Sult, Terry; Durden, Tony (Sheriff); Yandura, Gary; Garmard, Robert; Jenkins, Andre; Reynolds, Luther (Chief); Weiss, Jack (Captain); Graziano, Kristen (Sheriff); mknox@charlestoncounty.org; srywelski@charlstoncounty.org; sbrochu@cmpd.org; Jennigs, Johnny; Roberson, Mike (Sheriff); Hadley, Jeffrey (Chief); Wilcher, John (Chief); Sarhatt. Mike (Director); Riley, Julies (Chief); Price, Phil (CMANS); wrjones@cherokeega.com; Dustin Smith; Bbuchanan, Mark; Roberts, Kevin; Allen, LeVon (Sheriff); Allen, LeVon (Sheriff); Norman, Alan (Sheriff); ernest.vanhoozer@cobbcounty.org; Anderson, Rhonda; Owens, Craig (Sheriff); eric.yeager@cobbcounty.org; Rogers, Connie; Holbrook, Skip (Chief); Williams, Pearlina; Duvall, Joe (Chief); Simmons, Richie (Sheriff); Scripture, Andrew G; Wendel, Erich D.; Enders, James J.; Claassen, David L.; Padrick, Gregory; Ramos, Mirtha (Chief); Wallace, William(Major); Knight, LC (Sheriff); McCoy, Helen (Asst to Chief Sparks); Sparks, Gary (Chief); Grogan, Billy (Chief); Andrews, Patrice; Montgomery, Shari; Jones, Jeff (Major); Wallace, Mark (Chief); Roberston, Dave (Sheriff); Freeman, Ron (Sheriff); Kimbrough, Bobby (Sheriff); Johnson, Antonio; Labat, Pat(Sheriff); Willis, Vincent; Baker, Karen (Hosey Ass't); Hosey, Chris (Dep Dir of Investigations); dan.sims@gbi.ga.gov; Jones, Machel (Exec. Assistant); Cynthia.Adkins@gbi.ga.gov; Hallman, Chase(ASAC); Bergman, James (Dep. Dir Field Ops); Nail, Michael (Commissioner); justin.l.beaulieu.mil@army.mil; Martin, Debra; Doyle, Kevin (Sr. Director ProtectiveServices); Hampton, Eric (Major); Allen, Dean; Chapeau, Charles(Lt); Wright, Chris (Col); Ramey,Joseph (Chief); trent_conrad@cityofgastonia.com; Jump, Neal (Sheriff); brad.hoxit@grahamcounty.org; john.thompson@greensboro-nc.gov; Brown, Mack (Sheriff); tsauls@greenvillenc.gov; Thompson, Howie (Acting Chief); Holder,Matt; james.mcclure@ginnettcounty.com; arussell@hamptoncountysc.org; Coats, Wayne(Sheriff); bill.wilke@haywoodcountync.gov; Henry, Ross (Sheriff); Griffin, Lowell; Scandrett, Reginald (Sheriff); Stroud, Travis (Chief); Dulina, Cory; Hill, Joseph (Chief); dfarmer@jacksonnc.org; dpope@jaspersheriff.com; Castro, Roland (Chief); Mitchell, Mark; Buttry, Vickie (Exec Asst to Chief); Bizzell, Steve (Sheriff); Henderson, Tommy (Chief); Norwood, Wilfred (Interim Chief); Summers, Tim(Chief); Boan, Lee (Sheriff); Dean, Larry (Sheriff); Foster, Jackie (Exec Asst. toSheriff); jackie.rogers@lenoircountync.gov; Rummage, Robby (Chief); Koon, Bryan "Jay" Sheriff; Taylor, Hamp (Captain); Bowman,William (Sheriff); Jordan, Rodney (Chief); McHugh, Michael (Chief); McHugh, Michael (Chief); bholbrooks@maconnnc.org; Harwood, Buddy; jsmith1@mariettaga.gov; mferrell@marietta.gov; King, Jack; Stewart, Terry (Chief's Admin); Buchanon, Ricky (Sheriff); Ray, Heather; McFadden, Garry (Sheriff); rich.austin@miltonga.gov; Watts, Robert(Chief); Crumpler, Michael (Chief); dsnively@cityofmorrow.com; aprock@cityofmyrtlebeach.com; Fernandez, Jay (Director); Stone, Keith (Sheriff); Johnson, Freddy; ashleigh.gray.1@us.af.mil; joshua.m.orihood.mil@army.mil; kschmidt@ncsbi.gov; Fleming, Brian (SAC); Page, Kelly; Schurmeier, Robert(Director); emcmahon@nhcgov.com; ksarvis@nhcgov.com; jhart@nhcgov.com; Chapman, Jeremy; Crenshaw, Mark (Sheriff); Washington, Ken; csblackwood@orangecountync.gov; Ravenell,Leroy (Sheriff); Wilborn, Jason (Sheriff); Dobb, Kenny (Chief); Wright ,Timothy;

To: Brown, Ashley (Chief); Patterson, Estella; Seabolt, Gregory (Sheriff); Gibson, Ray; Lott, Leon (Sheriff); Shores, Raymond (Chief); Spivey, Todd (Chief); Page, Sam (Sheriff); robert.hassell@rockymountnc.gov; Burnett, Debbie; dmckinney@romepolice.com; Conroy, James (Chief); james.ellenburg@rutherfordcountync.gov; DeSimone, Kenneth (Chief); Gunther, Lenny (Asst. Chief); Owens, Gil (GS); Williamson, Chris (Colonel); Keel, Mark(Chief); O'Neal, Frank (Major); Baird, Jerry (Lt. Col) SC; Jezewski, Brian; Zgonc, Keith (Chief); Meadows, Keith (Chief); Dix, Darrell (Sheriff); Wright, Chuck (Sheriff); Thompson, Alonzo (Chief); tbrown@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov; Tumbleston, Shaun; Wright, Doug; cmooney@suwanee.com; Cochran, Curtis (Sheriff); cowenby@tcsonc.org; cowenby@tcsonc.org; Corbin,Thomas (Sheriff); Milam, Laurel (USAGAN); Buchanan, Ryan (USAGAN); Eboigbe, Mindy (USAGAN); Herskowitz, Michael (USAGAN); Moultrie, Richard (USAGAN); Samuels, Paulette (USAGAN); Estes, David (USAGAS); McMillian, Everett (USASC); Bianchi, Nick (USASC); Boroughs, Adair (USASC); Garner, Benjamin (USASC); Taylor, Jane (USASC); Gibbons, Ben P. (ATF); Mims, Bennie (ATF); McKenna, Steven C. (ATF); Lau, Kevin T; Woodruff, Whitney; henry.deblock@cbp.dhs.gov; Lau, Kevin T; Deyo,Christopher E.; Eaton, Kevin S.; Murphy, Robert; Conaway, Eric L.; Corcoran, Kevin J.; O'Brien, Matthew J.; Iorio, Ralph J.; Pickard, Travis; Spelce, Craig (SAC); Mataya, Bill (RAC); Murphy, Christopher (ASAC); ronnie.a.martinez@hsi.dhs.gov; Prado, Michael; Lee, Stanley (SAC); Farley, Keri E. (AT) (FBI); Macrae, Christopher A. (AT) (FBI); Burkner, Jeff (SAC); keith_toomey@fws.gov; Dorsey, James; Fontanette, Lisa; Coke, Tommy; JLVagner@uspis.gov; Ewigf, Marc; Baisel, Steve; tony.godwin@wake.gov.com; Lilyquist, Cameron; willie.rowe@wakegov.com; Tony.godwin@wakegov.com; Pierce, Larry; schitwood@whitfieldcountyga.com; PaulWoods (Captain); Hopkins, Thomas (Chief); mcardwell@wspd.org; Culpepper, Kevin (Asst. Chief); Jones, Robert(Chief); Hillard, Shane; Cook, Chad W.; McCormack, Eddie; Treasurer, Douglas; York, Kyle D.; York, KyleD.

Cc: Dimond, Andrew

Subject: RE: RELEASE: The White House Announces Nine Newly Designated Counties Across America Are Joining the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

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Thank you!

From: Sheffield, Lydia <lshffield@achidta.org> **On Behalf Of** Salter, Daniel

Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 7:41 AM

To: Watson, Ray (Sheriff) <rwatson@abbevillecountysc.com>; Johnson, Terry (Sheriff) <terry.johnson@alamance-nc.com>; Robison, John (Director) <jrobison@alpharetta.ga.us>; McBride, Chad (Sheriff) <cmcbride@andersonsheriff.com>; Stewart, James (Chief) <jstewart@cityofandersonsc.com>; Jones, David <djones@archdale-nc.gov>; Lineberry, Mark (Chief) <mlineberry@ci.asheboro.nc.us>; Zack, David (Chief) <dzack@ashevillenc.gov>; Bruce, Jessica <jbruce@atlantaga.gov>; Hampton, Charles (Dep. Chief) <CRHampton@AtlantaGa.gov>; Peek, Tim (Asst. Chief) <TPeek@AtlantaGa.gov>; Schierbaum, Darin (Interim Chief) <DSchierbaum@AtlantaGa.Gov>; Mayton, Mark <mmayton@bc-dtf.org>; Calhoun, Todd (Mst Sgt) <tcalhoun@bcgov.net>; Horton, Alan (LTC) <allenh@bcgov.net>; Tanner, PJ (Sheriff) <pjtanner@bcgov.net>; Baker, Jeremy (Chief Deputy) <jeremy.baker@berkeleycountysc.gov>; Lewis, Duane (Sheriff) <duane.lewis@berkeleycountysc.gov>; Wright, Christopher (Chief) <cwright@blackshearpolice.org>; Gurley, Brandon <Brandon.gurley@brookhavenga.gov>; Brown, Noel (Sheriff) <noel@bullochsheriff.com>; Miller, Quentin (Sheriff) <quentin.miller@buncombecounty.org>; abalog@burlingtonnc.gov; Rousseau, Lisa <Lisa.Rousseau@townofcary.org>; Sult, Terry <terry.sult@townofcary.org>; Durden, Tony (Sheriff) <tdurden@caswellcountync.gov>; Yandura, Gary

<gyandura@chambleega.gov>; Garmard, Robert <gamardr@charleston-sc.gov>; Jenkins, Andre <jenkinsa@charleston-sc.gov>; Reynolds, Luther (Chief) <reynoldsl@charleston-sc.gov>; Weiss, Jack (Captain) <weissj@charleston-sc.gov>; Graziano, Kristen (Sheriff) <kgraziano@charlestoncounty.org>; mknox@charlestoncounty.org; srywelski@charlstoncounty.org; sbrochu@cmpd.org; Jennigs, Johnny <jjennings@cmpd.org>; Roberson, Mike (Sheriff) <mike.roberson@chathamsheriff.com>; Hadley, Jeffrey (Chief) <jhadley@chathamcounty.org>; Wilcher, John (Chief) <jtwilche@chathamcounty.org>; Sarhatt, Mike (Director) <msarhatt@chathamcounty.org>; Riley, Julies (Chief) <jriley@cheraw.com>; Price, Phil (CMANS) <pwprice@cherokeega.com>; wrjones@cherokeega.com; dustin.smith@cherokeecounty-nc.gov; Bbuchanan, Mark <sheriffbuchanan@claycountyso.com>; Roberts, Kevin <kevin.roberts@claytoncountyyga.gov>; Allen, LeVon (Sheriff) <levon.allenl@claytoncountyyga.gov>; Allen, LeVon (Sheriff) <levon.allenl@claytoncountyyga.gov>; Norman, Alan (Sheriff) <alan.norman@clevelandcountync.gov>; ernest.vanhoozer@cobbcounty.org; Anderson, Rhonda <Rhonda.anderson@cobbcounty.org>; Owens, Craig (Sheriff) <craig.owens@cobbcounty.org>; eric.yeager@cobbcounty.org; Rogers, Connie <connie.rogers@collegeparkga.com>; Holbrook, Skip (Chief) <whholbrook@columbiasc.net>; Williams, Pearlina <Pearlina.Williams@columbiasc.gov>; Duvall, Joe (Chief) <jduvall@dallas-ga.gov>; Simmons, Richie (Sheriff) <richie.simmons@davidsoncountync.gov>; Scripture, Andrew G <Andrew.G.Scripture@dea.gov>; Wendel, Erich D. <Erich.D.Wendel@dea.gov>; Enders, James J. <James.J.Enders@dea.gov>; Claassen, David L. <David.L.Claassen@dea.gov>; Freeman, Herbert M. (Mike) <Herbert.M.Freeman@dea.gov>; Padrick, Gregory <gapadric@dekalbcountyga.gov>; Ramos, Mirtha (Chief) <mvramos@dekalbcountyga.gov>; Wallace, William (Major) <wlwallace@dekalbcountyga.gov>; Knight, LC (Sheriff) <lcknight@dorchestercountysc.gov>; McCoy, Helen (Asst to Chief Sparks) <mccoyh@douglasvillega.gov>; Sparks, Gary (Chief) <sparksg@douglasvillega.gov>; Grogan, Billy (Chief) <billy.grogan@dunwoodyga.gov>; Andrews, Patrice <patrice.andrews@durhamnc.gov>; Montgomery, Shari <Shari.montgomery@durhamnc.gov>; Jones, Jeff (Major) <jonesj@floydcountyga.gov>; Wallace, Mark (Chief) <wallacem@floydcountyga.gov>; Roberston, Dave (Sheriff) <dave.roberson@floydcountyga.gov>; Freeman, Ron (Sheriff) <rhfreeman@forsythco.com>; Kimbrough, Bobby (Sheriff) <kimbrob@fcso.us>; Johnson, Antonio <Antonio.johnson@fultoncountyga.gov>; Labat, Pat (Sheriff) <pat.labat@fultoncountyga.gov>; Willis, Vincent <vincient.willis@fultoncountyga.gov>; Baker, Karen (Hosey Ass't) <karen.baker@gbi.ga.gov>; Hosey, Chris (Dep Dir of Investigations) <chris.hosey@gbi.ga.gov>; dan.sims@gbi.ga.gov; Jones, Machele (Exec. 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Cc: Salter, Daniel <dsalter@achidta.org>; Dimond, Andrew <ADimond@achidta.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: The White House Announces Nine Newly Designated Counties Across America Are Joining the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

It is now official. New Hanover, County, NC is our latest approved HIDTA County. Please join me in welcoming them to our team.

Dan R. Salter
Director
Atlanta Carolinas HIDTA

From: Kelly, Shannon L. EOP/ONDCP <Shannon.L.Kelly@ONDCP.EOP.GOV>

Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 4:16 PM

To: Barrera, Hugo J. <hugo.barrera@sflhidta.gov>; Bass, Roger <rbass@la.hidta.net>; Brown, Vic <brownv@ahidta.org>; Carr, Tom <tcarr@wb.hidta.org>; Carter, Keith <keithc@lvmpd.com>; Collazo, A.J. <AJCollazo@CFHIDTA.org>; Daley, Jerry <jdaley@lmahidta.org>; Fallon, Jay <jfallon@nehidta.org>; Garcia, Tony <tgarcia@stxhidta.net>; Gibson, Chris <Chris.GIBSON@dpsst.oregon.gov>; Glaspy, Will <wglaspy@nmhidta.org>; Hughes, Maurice <maurice.hughes@alaska.gov>; Kanig, John <jkanig@prvihidta.org>; King, David <David.king@sdi.hidta.org>; Kuykendall, Travis <tkuykendall@westtexashidta.org>; Martin, John J. <jomartin@sacsheriff.com>; McDaniel, Mike <fmcdaniel@houstonhidta.net>; Mertz, Dawn <dmertz@azhidta.org>; Neill, Dan <dneill@midwest-hidta.org>; Ollie, Ray <rollie@mi.hidta.net>; Parker, Chauncey <Chauncey.parker@nypd.org>; Peryam, Bob <bperyam@nfhidta.org>; Porucznik, Chuck <cporucznik@indiana-hidta.org>; Roti, Nick <nroti@chicago-hidta.org>; Salter, Daniel <dsalter@achidta.org>; Sánchez, Tom <tasanchez@nhac.org>; Sena, Mike <Msena@ncric.ca.gov>; Shogren, Ryan <rshogren@northcentralhidta.org>; Siegle, Derek <derek.siegle@ohiohidta.org>; Sumpter, Lance <lance.sumpter@texomahidta.org>; Valenti, Tim <ValentiT@gchidta.org>; Weiner, Jonathan <jweiner@nw.hidta.org>; Weis, Keith <kweis@rmhidta.org>; Yabuta, Gary <gyabuta@hi-hidta.org>

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Subject: RELEASE: The White House Announces Nine Newly Designated Counties Across America Are Joining the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

HIDTA Directors,

Sharing for your awareness. If you are not receiving these releases directly from ONDCP and would like to, please just let me know.

Shannon
(202) 841-5240

From: ONDCP Public Affairs <Press@ondcp.eop.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 4:12 PM

To: ONDCP Public Affairs <Press@ondcp.eop.gov>

Subject: RELEASE: The White House Announces Nine Newly Designated Counties Across America Are Joining the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG
CONTROL POLICY
Washington, DC 20503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 6, 2023

CONTACT:

Press@ondcp.eop.gov

The White House Announces Nine Newly Designated Counties Across America Are Joining the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

As part of President Biden's strategy to beat the overdose epidemic, new designations will deploy additional resources and support to areas hardest hit by drug trafficking

Washington, D.C. — To support President Biden's *National Drug Control Strategy*, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Dr. Rahul Gupta today announced the designation of nine new counties to the ONDCP-funded High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program. The HIDTA Program coordinates and assists federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to address regional drug threats with the purpose of reducing drug production and drug trafficking in the United States.

The nine newly designated counties are:

1. Bullitt County, Kentucky (Appalachia HIDTA)
2. Randolph County, West Virginia (Appalachia HIDTA)
3. New Hanover County, North Carolina (Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA)
4. Lehigh County, Pennsylvania (Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA)
5. Sullivan County, New York (New York/New Jersey HIDTA)
6. Allen County, Ohio (Ohio HIDTA)
7. Lee County, Florida (South Florida HIDTA)
8. St. Lucie County, Florida (South Florida HIDTA)
9. Canadian County, Oklahoma (Texoma HIDTA)

“The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to doing everything we can to strengthen public health and public safety to beat the overdose epidemic,” said Dr. Gupta. “These new HIDTA designations will ensure our nation's hardest-hit areas get the critical resources and support they need to crack down on illicit drug supply, prevent overdoses, save lives, and make our communities safer.”

The addition of these nine counties to the HIDTA program will allow additional resources to be deployed to areas hardest hit by drug trafficking and overdoses.

The HIDTA Program supports regional law enforcement efforts in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Nationwide, the program comprises more than 900 investigative, interdiction, and intelligence-sharing initiatives. Regional HDTAs also collaborate closely with public health partners on innovative strategies to reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses and substance use.

Since its inception in 1988, the HIDTA Program has helped public safety officials implement integrated operations against drug trafficking organizations and, with ONDCP's leadership, has provided the American people with a cost-effective and evidence-based solution to address addiction and the overdose crisis. In 2022, the HDTAs seized an estimated \$22 billion in illicit drugs and cash—representing a return on investment of \$82.91 for every \$1 budgeted for the HIDTA Program.

President Biden's FY 2024 budget calls for \$290.2 million in funding for the HIDTA Program, which is managed by ONDCP. In April, Dr. Gupta announced \$275.7 million for the HIDTA Program providing additional resources to 33 regional HDTAs. The funding also supports public health and public safety partnerships like the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) – a partnership between the HIDTA program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that works to prevent and reduce overdoses. Specifically, ORS brings together drug intelligence officers and public health analysts at the local and regional level to share information and develop evidence-based intervention and support services that prevent and reduce overdoses including law enforcement-led linkages to care, use data to alert and respond to overdose spikes, and ensure access to naloxone.

For a map of HIDTA Program Counties, please click [HERE](#).

Read the Biden-Harris Administration's inaugural National Drug Control Strategy [HERE](#).

Read the fact sheet on the Strategy [HERE](#).