



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2010

Contact: Attorney Charles Douglas

603.224.1988 or email: chuck@nhlawoffice.com

**Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General Releases
Transcripts from Interview
with Former Rockingham Sheriff Dan Linehan
Regarding Investigation that
Ultimately led to his Resignation**

Concord – The Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General recently made public, 373 pages of documents outlining interviews between their office and James Daniel Linehan, Mark Pierce, Karen Dandurant and the County of Rockingham as it pertained to its investigation of now proven illegal activity as it relates to case docket #09-c-1115, David J. Lovejoy v James Daniel Linehan, Mark Pierce, Karen Dandurant, and the County of Rockingham.

The documents were made available by the Attorney General's office under the Right to Know Law, RSA 91-A. The documents available through the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General and posted online at www.lovejoyforsheriff.com, provide admissions by two defendants (Linehan, Pierce) as to their intent and goal in researching the background of Lovejoy on government time, with government money and government personnel.

The transcripts reflect that then, Rockingham Sheriff Linehan wanted to have research done on David Lovejoy, his political opponent in the 2008 Sheriff's race. In doing so, he confirmed in his interview with the Attorney General's Office that he used County personnel and County office equipment to act out his political opposition research. Linehan's goal of course was wide distribution in the media (specifically Rockingham County) in an attempt to smear his opponent David Lovejoy in hopes that it would impact the November 2008 election. Linehan's documents smearing Lovejoy which were illegally produced and researched were provided to Seacoast newspapers and printed one week before the election. Linehan won the election. **Total votes cast: 144,787. Votes: 82,749 Linehan (57%) Votes: 61,885 Lovejoy (43%), a difference of 20,864 votes.**

- continued-

Page 2 ONHAG Releases Transcripts/Lovejoy Case

Excerpts from Attorney General's Report include this statement made by Linehan in reference to a conversation with then Rockingham Chief Deputy, Mark Pierce:

Linehan: "I'm sure we had a discussion that we need to figure out a way to get this out so it's widely distributed and easily understood by the people who are going to be making a decision as to who is going to be the next sheriff."

Linehan references in his interview with the AG's office, a phone call to Pierce:

Linehan: "I called him up and said that I think I know a way to keep the Sheriff's Office out of this. We'll find a reporter that's willing to take this and do whatever they want with it and I mentioned (reporter's) name and he thought that was a good idea and so from that point on, my assumption was that he would take this, like this and physically hand it to her...."

September 2, 2009 Transcript: Interview of Daniel Linehan, p. 416

But the goal was NOT to have the Sheriff's Office fingerprints on the project because as the then Sheriff put it:

Linehan: "I didn't want the Sheriff's Office involved in it. It was political and it didn't belong in there..."

The transcripts released by the Attorney General's Office confirm a meeting between Linehan and Pierce that took place at Brentwood, NH gas pumps after the election and after they learned that Lovejoy was told annulled information about him was given to the media by the Sheriff's Office. The gas pump meeting is described by Pierce including the Sheriff handing him the witness tampering statue and putting his finger up to his lips to Pierce after previously handing him the statue concerning annulments. Linehan makes the statement that the document as it pertains to Lovejoy should be shredded which makes Pierce uncomfortable.

Pierce: Where we were at the gas pumps, when he showed me the document in his file, he also made the comment 'I need to shred these'. And I was pretty uncomfortable at that point. My take on this was that we both get attorneys and call you, and say may we come up and sit down and have an interview please and do the right thing. And it was clear that that was not his thought. And what disturbed me the most was the next comment, and that's when I was all done talking with him.

The fact that Linehan knew what he did was wrong and was trying to cover it up is as egregious, if not more so than his initial conduct. At some point Linehan says to Pierce "we're going to crawl into a hole and stay here" and they will have to smoke us out".

Transcripts can be requested at the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General or read online at www.lovejoyforsheriff.com -end-