

SNOW, CHRISTENSEN & MARTINEAU

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June 17, 2008

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Re: FLDS

Dear Mark, Kirk, and Brock:

I am writing this letter at the request of Willie Jessop and others who were identified in a "profile" or "dossier" that was provided by the State of Utah to officials in Texas. We believe those profiles contained statements which your office either knew or should have known were unsubstantiated or from unreliable sources. Such irresponsible use of the justice system puts at risk numerous citizens and law enforcement officials of other jurisdictions and states.

While some officials have publicly stated that Utah does not approve of the militant raid by Texas, Utah officers have continued to send memos from your department that are obviously tainted with untruth. Moreover, as investigations proceed, Texas authorities are acknowledging that in conducting this raid they reacted to erroneous intelligence.

General Mark Shurtleff
Sheriff Kirk Smith
Brock Belnap
June 17, 2008
Page 2

As public servants, sworn to serve and protect the citizens, the spreading of slanderous statements such as these jeopardizes the trust of county officials, state officials, law enforcement and government officials of neighboring states, and private citizens.

During Warren Jeffs' trial in St. George, Utah, we witnessed firsthand the effects of this type of paranoia and accusation in the intimidation of FLDS members who had been profiled by your biased and misleading dossiers. Willie Jessop, for example, had sniper weapons aimed at him, extra security placed around him, and accusations made that his mere presence in this public proceeding was intimidating a witness, yet your own security officers acknowledge that they observed nothing intimidating in his conduct. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of taxpayer dollars were wasted on this remarkable and unnecessary show of force.

Relations between your office and the FLDS community have obviously deteriorated over the past several years. This is due in part to your apparent willingness to be manipulated by hate groups who wish to see the FLDS destroyed. Time after time, the information those groups have provided you has turned out to be false, yet you persist in spreading their lies and, in the process, undermining your effectiveness. It would take very little investigation on the part of your office to realize that your sources are unreliable. It is time that you step back from those sources and objectively evaluate the information they are providing you.

As public officials who have taken an oath to defend the constitution and human rights, you have the obligation to presume innocence until guilt is proven in an honest court of law. It is a concern of every American citizen that law enforcement officials not abuse their power by prejudicing the minds of judges, jurors, and witnesses through the use of dossiers using inflammatory and misleading profiling. These are not abstract claims. Your actions harm real people.

We believe it is incumbent upon you to immediately correct these abuses.

Very truly yours,



Rodney R. Parker

RRP:mj

cc: Governor Jon Huntsman
Kirk Torgensen, Utah AG
Scott Stevenson, Director of Utah POST
Mayor Dan McArthur
Marlin Stratton, St. George City Police Chief

General Mark Shurtleff
Sheriff Kirk Smith
Brock Belnap
June 17, 2008
Page 3

Washington County Commission

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