

# Montezuma County Sheriff's Office

Steven D. Nowlin – Sheriff

730 East Driscoll  
Cortez, Colorado 81321

Telephone 970-565-8452  
Fax 970-565-3731  
[www.montezumasheriff.org](http://www.montezumasheriff.org)

September 29, 2017

Sheriff Rich Valdez  
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office  
P.O. Box 638  
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147-0638

Re: ACSO Case No. 17000707

Dear Sheriff Valdez,

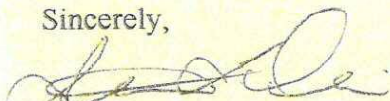
I have reviewed, by your request, the above referenced potential criminal case involving a possible false statement contained in an Affidavit filed in Archuleta County District Court by County Attorney Todd Starr on December 28, 2016 in case 16CV4. These documents contained in your above reference case revolve around potential election law violations pertaining to petitions gathered and purportedly filed with the Archuleta County Clerk's Office in 2013 for ballot initiatives to be placed before the Archuleta County electors in 2014. It appears that these initiatives, of which I am told consisted of eleven, were blocked or refused by the Archuleta County Commissioners with the advice and direction of their County Attorney Todd Starr.

In meeting with the complainants in this case, I was advised that the document titled "18 USC 14, Criminal Complaint Notice of Fraud on the District Court for Archuleta County" was sent by certified mail to the Colorado Attorney General, but no documentation of this was provided. Since this case involves possible election law violations, the Colorado Secretary of State could possibly have jurisdiction as well as the Colorado Attorney General, which is where I think any investigation and possible criminal prosecution should be referred. The 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney has the authority to request the assistance of the Colorado Attorney General for investigation and prosecution.

In conclusion, a proper and through investigation will be extensive with multiple interviews and retrieval of all documents that may be in existence. I would think that the Special Prosecution Section of the Colorado Attorney General's Office would be best able to conduct such an investigation, and if true facts support any possible criminal charges, the case could be presented to a grand jury which could settle the allegations and provide public trust and transparency.

All documents that your office has provided have been returned with this letter of review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Nowlin, Sheriff  
Montezuma County, Colorado