



Kevin Mathewson &lt;kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com&gt;

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**RE: Non-response to public records request, notice of intent to petition circuit court for writ of mandamus**

1 message

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**Hanson, Patricia** <Patricia.Hanson@da.wi.gov>  
To: "kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com" <kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 1:16 PM

Mr. Mathewson,

I have attached the contents of the only e-mail reference the Kenosha case. As a courtesy, any media outlet that contacts the Racine County District Attorney's Office main number at 262-636-3172, can have a copy of criminal complaints via e-mail, after it is filed in circuit court. Additionally, as another courtesy, we e-mail in-custody criminal complaints out to an extensive media list each day. You are welcome to make request to be added to that list. I know that your counterparts at the Racine County Eye receive those e-mails. Under no circumstances do we favor one organization over another.

It is my understanding that The Kenosha News called on July 18, 2022, and spoke with ADA Steenrod who advised the reporter that he was ready to file the charges. ADA Steenrod told the Kenosha News reporter that he would have someone send a copy of the complaint after it was filed with the court. It was the reporter mentioned in the e-mail attached above. ADA Steenrod indicated to me that he had also communicated with you by e-mail but acknowledged to me that he must have forgotten to add you to the list of interested parties. Notice to any media members of when a complaint is filed is a courtesy that we try hard to comply with, but you were omitted here.

As I have told your predecessor at the Kenosha County Eye in the past, no courtesies will be extended to any reporter that uses unprofessional, nasty and/or insulting language in their communications with me or my staff, as you have done here. What you ultimately report is your choice, of course, but I will not allow my staff to be subjected to your bullying behavior and comments. If that is a rule you do not agree with, you will have to go through the normal channels for open records requests for any information you seek from us.

Please let me know if you have not received all of the materials that you still seek.

Tricia Hanson

Racine County District Attorney

730 Wisconsin Avenue

Racine, WI 53403

262.636.3172



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**From:** Kevin Mathewson [mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2022 9:07 AM  
**To:** Hanson, Patricia <Patricia.Hanson@da.wi.gov>; Jensen, Dirk <Dirk.Jensen@da.wi.gov>; Racine DA's Office <rcda@da.wi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Non-response to public records request, notice of intent to petition circuit court for writ of mandamus

Patricia,

You should check your junk folder more often or change the settings. Being a DA is a very important job and you don't want to miss emails.

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The Kenosha News wrote two articles.

The first, on July 18, 2022 titled

## Racine County DA intends to file multiple

## felony charges against former Pleasant Prairie public works director

Contained in this story:

"The Racine County District Attorney's Office intends to file multiple felony charges against former Pleasant Prairie Works Director John Steinbrink Jr., including one count of theft/false representation and six counts of misconduct, according to officials with the DA."

The second, on July 19, 2022 titled:

## Racine DA details charges in Steinbrink Jr. case

Contained in this story:

"The complaint was provided to the Kenosha News by the Racine County District Attorney's Office."

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It is clear by the Kenosha News' statements that they spoke with somebody from your office on or before July 18th who told them about the yet-to-be-filed charges. I would like all records including text messages emails and phone logs that detail this conversation or conversation regarding John Steinbrink Jr from July 18th.

On July 19th, before the charges were filed with the circuit court, someone from your office sent the Kenosha News the complaint. I have an RSS feed set up for Steinbrink Jr and the case was not filed until an hour after the Kenosha News finalized their story.

I would like all records including text messages emails and phone logs that detail the conversation or conversations regarding John Steinbrink Jr from July 19th.

It is my intention to show that you pick and choose media outlets by leaking documents to the one you favor the most. The Kenosha News doesn't ask you hard questions like why you let pedophiles go free? Why do you give good deals to cops who beat up doctors and track their wives? Where do you give deferred prosecution agreements to a cop who many veteran police detectives think warranted a felony conviction. The list goes on and on.

I look forward to receiving these documents promptly.

--

Kevin Mathewson  
Editor, Investigative Journalist  
Kenosha County Eye

[kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com](mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com)

262-237-8501

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----- Original message -----

From: "Hanson, Patricia" <[Patricia.Hanson@da.wi.gov](mailto:Patricia.Hanson@da.wi.gov)>

Date: 7/28/22 8:44 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: Kevin Mathewson <[kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com](mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com)>, "Jensen, Dirk" <[Dirk.Jensen@da.wi.gov](mailto:Dirk.Jensen@da.wi.gov)>

Subject: RE: Non-response to public records request, notice of intent to petition circuit court for writ of mandamus

Mr. Mathewson,

This morning, I noticed 3 e-mails from you in my junk mail with open records requests. Today is the first I have seen these. In the future, you should send requests of this type not to me or Deputy Dirk Jensen directly but to the office at [RCDA@da.wi.gov](mailto:RCDA@da.wi.gov).

I found the string to be somewhat confusing, can you clarify for me what it is that you are looking for and I will do my best to comply.

Tricia Hanson

Racine County District Attorney

730 Wisconsin Avenue

Racine, WI 53403

262.636.3172

 See the source image  [cid:image006.png@01D8A25E.48D56600](#)  [cid:image007.png@01D8A25E.48D56600](#)  
 [cid:image008.png@01D8A25E.48D56600](#)

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**From:** Kevin Mathewson [<mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 11:58 AM

**To:** Hanson, Patricia <[Patricia.Hanson@da.wi.gov](mailto:Patricia.Hanson@da.wi.gov)>; Jensen, Dirk <[Dirk.Jensen@da.wi.gov](mailto:Dirk.Jensen@da.wi.gov)>

**Subject:** Non-response to public records request, notice of intent to petition circuit court for writ of mandamus

Patricia and Dirk,

As I hope both of you know, I have successfully sued District attorney Mike Gravely on two occasions. Once was pro se and the other was with an attorney. He, like you, thought that DAs were exempt from having to comply with State statute, particularly 19.31.

Please see:

Kenosha [2021CV000516](#)

And

Kenosha [2021CV000893](#)

As you also know I would be subject to attorneys fees once I win.

To date, neither of you have acknowledged receipt of my public records request or provided the responsive documents.

Please know that I do not make threats of litigation that I do not follow through with.

Be clear. I will sue both of you and I will win and the Wisconsin Department of administration will pay for my fees and I will make sure everybody knows how corrupt you are.

Since you both have administrative authority within the DA's office I will be starting both of you in your personal capacities and professional capacities.

You have until the end of business on Friday to either deny my request and cite the relevant statute, or notify you that you are in the process of completing my request as soon as practicable and without delay.

If I do not hear from you by end of business on Friday it will be my absolute pleasure to successfully sue you.

Thank you,

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Kevin Mathewson  
Editor, Investigative Journalist  
Kenosha County Eye

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[262-237-8501](tel:262-237-8501)

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----- Original message -----

From: Kevin Mathewson <[kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com](mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com)>

Date: 7/20/22 4:05 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Hanson, Patricia" <[patricia.hanson@da.wi.gov](mailto:patricia.hanson@da.wi.gov)>, "Jensen, Dirk" <[dirk.jensen@da.wi.gov](mailto:dirk.jensen@da.wi.gov)>, [john.ward@da.wi.gov](mailto:john.ward@da.wi.gov), [kelsey.blumfeld@da.wi.gov](mailto:kelsey.blumfeld@da.wi.gov)

Subject: Fwd: FW: Request for comment: Pleasant Prairie corruption investigation

Patricia,

Please fulfill this public records request but I'd like to amend the end date to today. Also please provide me with any document in the possession of the Racine DA that contains the application and resumes of ADA Kelsey Blumenfeld and John Wagner. I would like to know how long they have been with your office.

BTW, the criminal complaint is deficient. It seems like allowing a 2 year attorney and a 3-year attorney to charge such a large-scale corruption case is a mystery. Looks like you want it to fail. I'm not a lawyer and I can almost guarantee some of these counts will be dismissed at the initial/prelim. Is that what you want?

I suggest you file an amended complaint with more information.

Kevin

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kevin Mathewson** <[kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com](mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 6:54 PM

Subject: FW: Request for comment: Pleasant Prairie corruption investigation

To: <[patricia.hanson@da.wi.gov](mailto:patricia.hanson@da.wi.gov)>

Patricia,

I know you probably think it's cute to tell the Kenosha News what you are charging John Steinbrink Jr with and ignoring all of my communications but that is not ethical.

You have never been known for your ethics and in fact the opposite is true. You are known for your cronyism and misconduct.

Under Wisconsin 19.31 please provide me with any communication you or anyone in your office has had with anyone from the Kenosha news in the last 72 hours. Email text or otherwise.

I will rescind this public records request if you simply tell me how many counts of what you are going to be charging Steinbrink with and if you are investigating any of the other corruption or just taking the easy way out and accepting just the low hanging fruit

Kevin

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Kevin Mathewson

Editor, Investigative Journalist

Kenosha County Eye

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----- Original message -----

From: Kevin Mathewson <[kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com](mailto:kenoshacountyeye@gmail.com)>

Date: 7/14/22 11:55 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: [patricia.hanson@da.wi.gov](mailto:patricia.hanson@da.wi.gov)

Subject: Request for comment: Pleasant Prairie corruption investigation

Patricia,

I've been closely following the Pleasant Prairie corruption investigation.

The taxpayers of Pleasant Prairie are upset that you are declining to charge John Steinbrink Jr or any of the other involved persons.

I'm attempting to learn why you are not charging. Do you have a personal relationship with any of the village leadership or staff?

--

Kevin Mathewson

Editor, Investigative Journalist

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Kevin Mathewson - Editor, Investigative Journalist

Kenosha County Eye

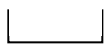
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**E-Mail response to Kenosha News.pdf**

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