

**From:** [Doyle, Ultan](#)  
**To:** [Rathke, Lisa](#)  
**Cc:** [Kranichfeld, Bram](#); [Boyce, Bonnie](#); [Mishaan, Jessica](#); [Gray, Molly](#)  
**Subject:** AP/Morris PRR 4-11-19  
**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 2:47:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [2019-03-15-Gray-response-to-Davis-and-Keays-w-docs.pdf](#)  
[Morris 4-25-19 PRR \(ID 202696\).pdf](#)  
[Rathke 4-25-19 PRR Ltr \(ID 202698\).pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Rathke,

In response to your 4-11-19 public records request, please see the attached documents.

Sincerely,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

SARAH E.B. LONDON  
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

STATE OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
109 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05609-1001

April 25, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Lisa Rathke  
The Associated Press  
94 Main Street, Suite 1  
Montpelier, Vt. 05602

RE: April 11, 2019, Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Rathke:

I am writing in response to your request for records, which the Vermont Attorney General's Office ("AGO") received on April 11, 2019.

Request

You have requested document and other records that the AGO has in connection with the investigation of alleged threats and harassment of former Rep. Kiah Morris.

Response

The AGO has located records in its possession that appear responsive to your request. The records listed below are subject to production and inspection and enclosed with this response. Some information within these records has been redacted pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(A)(iii). Specifically, this includes the redaction of personal or identifying information for persons involved in the investigation. In addition, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(4), we have withheld records where disclosure would violate the attorney-client privilege. This includes

legal memoranda and emails between attorneys within the AGO. Finally, as you may be aware, Max Misch has been arraigned on criminal charges which are currently pending. Consistent with 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(A)(ii), because some records, including a timeline provided by Ms. Morris, contained information that could deprive Max Misch of his right to a fair trial, we were obliged, at this stage, to exempt or redact this material from disclosure. Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3) disclosure could also violate duly adopted Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct. Specifically, Rule 3.6 of the Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct prohibits a lawyer from making an extrajudicial statement that would have a substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing an adjudicative proceeding.

The records the AGO has in its possession that appear to fall within the scope of your request are listed below. These are 175 documents consisting primarily of emails (items 1-4), as well as records related to this investigation that have already been made public and have been posted on our website (item 5).

1. Emails between law enforcement and members of the AGO;
2. Emails and texts between Ms. Morris and members of the AGO;
3. Emails between Bennington State's Attorney, Erica Marthage and the AGO;
4. Emails between Representative Jill Krowinski and members of the AGO;
5. Records related to this investigation that have already been made public

Please be advised that to the extent this letter constitutes a denial of your request, you may appeal to the Deputy Attorney General. Any appeal should be in writing and addressed to:

Joshua Diamond  
Deputy Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001.

Sincerely,



Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 5:07 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

Could you please forward all reports you have in your possession regarding any criminal complaints made to Bennington Pd by either James Lawton or Kiah Morris in the past 2 years. Our office will be reviewing all of these complaints.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

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**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 11:38 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Fw: Is this Facebook account ...

Please take a look at this while I prepare your reports.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 11:01 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Re: Is this Facebook account ...

Here's a screenshot. It's a fake profile and the vernacular and grammar is very much like James. It may not be him but there is a strong belief by several people that it is. I wish Donovan would hurry up with that report. Kiah is on a full-out media blitz ...



Scott Smith

She's had people enter her property and bang on windows and doors. She's had death threats made against her and her husband. She's found swastikas on trees around her property. She's had the town Nazi follow her family around and call her child a mongrel. She's had the police shrug and walk away.

The way she's been treated is a stain on Bennington.

And you're pissed at her.

Screw you, Suzanne.

Florida deserves you.

2h Like Reply



Suzanne Wright

Scott Smith,

You seem a little angry. Not certain why you are misdirecting at me. May want to read both the article and my response again.

Just for the record, I was born and raised in Benn.. Spent the first 30 years of my life there. If all goes as planned, my husband and I hope to have a seasonal home in Vermont soon. I love Vermont. It will always be my "home."

All of the things you mentioned that have happened to Kiah are currently being investigated. A few of the incidents that she described involved local teenagers apparently playing "Ding,

On Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 10:56 AM Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)> wrote:  
I tried to follow the link...no luck.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 2:28:28 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Is this Facebook account ...

Hi, Paul, have you had issues with this Facebook profile, which is surely fake?

Chatter on the street is that it's James Lawton. But the chatter could wrong.

But (the person) has been telling people off on threads that relate to Kiah's recent celebrity status.

<https://www.facebook.com/scott.smith.351756>

Thoughts?



## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:35 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan; shurd@benningtonvt.org  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations  
**Attachments:** 20181016130315814.pdf

Mr. Doyle,

In an effort to save time, I have scanned all of the reports we have on file involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. This will prevent any questions about the incident reports we have on file involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. Please let me know if you need anything further.

I would also like to bring your attention to the emails and calls we continue to receive. To date, I have followed Attorney General Donovan's advice and have not responded to the media calls. Town Manager Stuart Hurd is receiving calls as well. I have not returned any of the calls and now people are leaving messages with my administrative assistant.

Kiah Morris continues with her media interviews and seems to be profiting from her "story." A local resident contacted me today and advised her GOFUNDME account has received over \$7,700.00.

Please advise the status of this investigation. Thank you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:02:49 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

I printed every incident involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. I am able to scan and email the reports or I can drop them in the mail today. Please advise how you would like to receive them.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***



**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
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**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 5:06:35 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

Could you please forward all reports you have in your possession regarding any criminal complaints made to Bennington Pd by either James Lawton or Kiah Morris in the past 2 years. Our office will be reviewing all of these complaints.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

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**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2018 9:39 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Grande, Camillo; Sharshon, Michael A  
**Subject:** Documents  
**Attachments:** 20181028093036973.pdf

Mr. Doyle,

Please see the attachment. Thank you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

## Doyle, Ultan

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**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 4:05 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

Thanks so much for the prompt response!

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**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 3:30 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

Please see the attached reports. You will note the incident involving Ms. Morris on 6/10/2018 did not involve her home. An individual went through her vehicle, along with several other vehicles, and we did file a criminal case.

Kim Clark - Please be advised Misch does not have a car and does not drive.

11/13/16 - Report attached. I spoke with Corporal Lauzon and he advised he did not collect any evidence.

Officer Sharshon is on vacation and is not due back for a few days. I will speak with him when he returns.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 12:02:37 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

I had a couple further requests. I understand that in Jan. of 2017, Kim Clark (who provided care to Ms. Morris's son) contacted BPD to report that someone, who resembled Mr. Misch, took photos outside of her home. Could you please send me a copy of that report?

Also, do you have any other information regarding the attempted theft at Ms. Morris's residence on 6/10/18? All I have is a one sentence narrative.

Thank you,

Ultan Doyle

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:35 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>; [shurd@benningtonvt.org](mailto:shurd@benningtonvt.org)  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

In an effort to save time, I have scanned all of the reports we have on file involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. This will prevent any questions about the incident reports we have on file involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. Please let me know if you need anything further.

I would also like to bring your attention to the emails and calls we continue to receive. To date, I have followed Attorney General Donovan's advice and have not responded to the media calls. Town Manager Stuart Hurd is receiving calls as well. I have not returned any of the calls and now people are leaving messages with my administrative assistant.

Kiah Morris continues with her media interviews and seems to be profiting from her "story." A local resident contacted me today and advised her GOFUNDME account has received over \$7,700.00.

Please advise the status of this investigation. Thank you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:02:49 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

I printed every incident involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. I am able to scan and email the reports or I can drop them in the mail today. Please advise how you would like to receive them.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
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**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 5:06:35 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

Could you please forward all reports you have in your possession regarding any criminal complaints made to Bennington Pd by either James Lawton or Kiah Morris in the past 2 years. Our office will be reviewing all of these complaints.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

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**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 3:11 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns  
**Attachments:** 20181029145444830.pdf

Mr. Doyle,

Please see the attachment. You are not bugging me and I will continue to provide you with any documents required.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030  
802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 3:01:12 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns

Ok. Thanks. Yeah. I remember one about the Nazi symbols on the trees. Sorry to keep bugging you about all of this. I just want to make sure I'm not missing anything.

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 2:58 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns

Mr. Doyle,

The paint was on trees...On the Morgan Street trail. I am not sure why I typed "signs." The trees were not on the Lawton/Morris property.

I will get the report on the cemetery vandalism to you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030***

**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 2:34:16 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns

Thanks. If you could send the report on the incident in the cemetery when complete, that would be great.

I wasn't aware of the incident with paint on her signs? I'm assuming these were campaign signs? Was there a report generated in reference to this incident? If so, could you please forward that to me.

Ultan

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 2:30 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns

Mr. Doyle,

The only thing I can think of was the paint on the signs? I am not sure about any other vandalism or unlawful mischief.

I would also like to bring your attention to an unlawful mischief incident that took place in the cemetery across the street from the Morris/Lawton home. Several headstones were broken or toppled over. Through investigation, we have made arrests in this matter. I am happy to forward the reports to you once they are complete.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
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**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 2:24:27 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns

Hi Chief Doucette,

Sorry. I should have been clearer. The FaceBook post contains the following: "Morris, who was first elected in 2014 and won re-election in 2016, announced that she wouldn't seek reelection this year — despite running unopposed — after facing vandalism, death threats that were seen by her young son, and a break-in to her home while her family was present." I'm just

trying to figure out what vandalism she is referencing. I don't remember seeing anything about vandalism in the reports you sent me.

Ultan

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns

Mr. Doyle,

I apologize but I am not clear on what you are asking me.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
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***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 12:30:32 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns

Hi Chief Doucette,

Thanks for sending. Can you advise what the vandalism allegation is that Ms. Morris is referring to?

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 12:25 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Concerns

This was sent to me this morning from a Bennington resident....

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
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---

Women's Liberation Front posted this on Facebook 10 days ago ...

<https://www.facebook.com/womensliberationfront/posts/1962367620524420>

The post shared to this page ...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1762268590492284/permalink/2141791829206623/>

██████████ shared a post.

October 19 at 8:15 PM

She shouldn't of ran.. she should of called for help.. BLM the NEW B.P party.. there are nagas who would of camped out in her yard and house ██████████

front line fight..

ter·ror·ist

*/ˈtɛrərəst/Submit*

noun

1.

a person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

Which elicited this comment:

██████████ See Tep

That's what i was talking about when i said "DIRECT THE VIOLENCE PROPERLY".

**We should be ORGANIZED ENOUGH to either have a Black Militia set up in Vermont or send some TERMINALLY ILL brothers there to wait on the people coming to her house and FOLLOW them to their house and Medgar Evers they Ass**

Paul, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to read between the lines. You've got Bennington kids -- innocent troublemakers at best -- who are being mentioned in the same breath as Medgar Evers, and if you don't know who that is you should Google him. Can you imagine if the Banner had mentioned the kids' names in the story regarding Ding Dong Ditch?

Not saying one thing always leads to another but it seems like these words are going too far even if they're from a keyboard cowboy.

Hope the BPD is prepared just in case.

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 2:44 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

You did. Sorry. It was attached to another report.

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 2:40 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Yes, Sir. I believe I sent that to you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 2:00:31 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

Was a police report ever generated in regard to the incident reported by [REDACTED]?

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 3:30 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

Please see the attached reports. You will note the incident involving Ms. Morris on 6/10/2018 did not involve her home. An individual went through her vehicle, along with several other vehicles, and we did file a criminal case.

█ Please be advised Misch does not have a car and does not drive.

11/13/16 - Report attached. I spoke with Corporal Lauzon and he advised he did not collect any evidence.

Officer Sharshon is on vacation and is not due back for a few days. I will speak with him when he returns.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 12:02:37 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

I had a couple further requests. I understand that in Jan. of 2017 █ (who provided care to Ms. Morris's son) contacted BPD to report that someone, who resembled Mr. Misch, took photos outside of her home. Could you please send me a copy of that report?

Also, do you have any other information regarding the attempted theft at Ms. Morris's residence on 6/10/18? All I have is a one sentence narrative.

Thank you,

Ultan Doyle

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:35 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>; [shurd@benningtonvt.org](mailto:shurd@benningtonvt.org)  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

In an effort to save time, I have scanned all of the reports we have on file involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. This will prevent any questions about the incident reports we have on file involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. Please let me know if you need anything further.

I would also like to bring your attention to the emails and calls we continue to receive. To date, I have followed Attorney General Donovan's advice and have not responded to the media calls. Town Manager Stuart Hurd is receiving calls as well. I have not returned any of the calls and now people are leaving messages with my administrative assistant.

Kiah Morris continues with her media interviews and seems to be profiting from her "story." A local resident contacted me today and advised her GOFUNDME account has received over \$7,700.00.

Please advise the status of this investigation. Thank you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
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**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:02:49 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

I printed every incident involving Kiah Morris and James Lawton. I am able to scan and email the reports or I can drop them in the mail today. Please advise how you would like to receive them.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
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**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 15, 2018 5:06:35 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

Could you please forward all reports you have in your possession regarding any criminal complaints made to Bennington Pd by either James Lawton or Kiah Morris in the past 2 years. Our office will be reviewing all of these complaints.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 7:55 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Subject:** Fw: Morris and Lawton investigations

Cpl. Lauzon,

Please review the email below. When you speak with Ms. Morris, determine if she still has the online materials she referenced. Please complete this task in a timely manner and report to me directly. Thank you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 4:51 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

Thanks. Can you also ask Cpl. Lauzon to see if Ms. Morris still has the online materials that she referenced in 11/13/16 report?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 3:07 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** shurd@benningtonvt.org  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

Please take a look at these documents. It appears former US Attorney Eric Miller may have looked into this.

I asked Cpl. Lauzon to reach out to Ms. Morris in an effort to determine what was vandalized.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 11:22:59 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

In the attached report, Ms. Morris says she "received threatening social attacks, cyber stalking as well as comments made to local media [from Misch]." Would you mind seeing if you can have someone obtain from her the online posts that she is referencing, assuming she still has them.

Ms. Morris also references "threatening mail and calls to Democratic headquarters." Can you please have someone see if they can get copies of those threats?

And finally, could someone clarify what property belonging to Ms Morris was vandalized and when that occurred.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*

Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
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**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 3:30 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Morris and Lawton investigations

Mr. Doyle,

Please see the attached reports. You will note the incident involving Ms. Morris on 6/10/2018 did not involve her home. An individual went through her vehicle, along with several other vehicles, and we did file a criminal case.

██████████ - Please be advised Misch does not have a car and does not drive.

11/13/16 - Report attached. I spoke with Corporal Lauzon and he advised he did not collect any evidence.

Officer Sharshon is on vacation and is not due back for a few days. I will speak with him when he returns.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
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**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Morris and Lawton investigations

Hi Chief Doucette,

I had a couple further requests. I understand that in Jan. of 2017, [REDACTED] (who provided care to Ms. Morris's son) contacted BPD to report that someone, who resembled Mr. Misch, took photos outside of her home. Could you please send me a copy of that report?

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Kiah Morris continues with her media interviews and seems to be profiting from her "story." A local resident contacted me today and advised her GOFUNDME account has received over \$7,700.00.

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BANNER 10/12/16

0 SHARES

Editor's note: This story by Bennington Banner staff writer Derek Carson was first published Oct. 11.

BENNINGTON — Democratic officials were concerned on Tuesday after an envelope of racist images was slid under the door of their campaign field office in Bennington.

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Conor Casey, executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party, said copies of the images have been sent to U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont Eric Miller, who is looking into the case.



Conor Casey, executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party. Photo by Mark Johnson/VTDigger.

There were four images in total: one simply depicting Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in front of a U.S. flag with the caption "Trump 2016;" one displaying a version of the cartoon frog Pepe, as a caricature of a Jewish man with a Star of David yarmulke, smiling while standing in front of the burning World Trade Center; one with Pepe, this time depicted as Trump, standing on one side of a fence, with characters depicting Mexican and Muslim stereotypes on the other side, while Russian President Vladimir Putin looks on approvingly with the caption, "This Trump guy, I like him;" and finally, a cartoon version of Trump speaking with a Mexican woman, who tells him that he cannot separate her from her baby, who is attached to an anchor chained to her body. Trump responds, "No problem," and hurls the woman and her baby over what is labeled the "Great Wall of Trump."

Aaron Sawyer, who works at the Bennington office, called the action "aggressive" and "unusual."

Casey said this was the second similar incident over the last few weeks across the state. In the first, he said, imagery related to the Ku Klux Klan was mailed from an address in Delaware. This incident, he said, is more disturbing, as the perpetrator is obviously someone within the community.

"It's a pretty horrific election season," he said, "with the vitriol and the casual racism being thrown around." He said some volunteers have felt threatened by this and similar behavior, but that, "I don't think it's going to be enough to dissuade people to come in."

Pepe made headlines earlier this campaign season, when Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's team posted an article on her website in September attempting to explain the connection. "Here's the short version: Pepe is a cartoon frog who began his internet life as an innocent meme enjoyed by teenagers and pop stars alike," it reads. "But in recent months, Pepe's been almost entirely co-opted by the white supremacists who call themselves the 'altright.' They've decided to take back Pepe by adding swastikas and other symbols of anti-semitism and white supremacy."

Bennington Rep. Kiah Morris, a Democrat who is black, was targeted on Twitter by a Bennington resident and Trump supporter earlier this year, who posted a caricature of a black man with the caption, "S—, I be representin dem white m—f— of Bennington, gnome sayin?"

That action was roundly denounced by political figures across the state, including Gov. Peter Shumlin, also a Democrat, who said, "There is no place for racism or racist vitriol in Vermont or anywhere else. This communication is an affront to Kiah and her family, to her neighbors and community, and to all Vermonters who care for one another and have no place in their hearts for hate. I know Vermonters join me in condemning hatred, bigotry, and intimidation

**BENNINGTON** — Democratic officials were concerned on Tuesday after an envelope of racist images was slid under the door of their campaign field office in Bennington.

Conor Casey, executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party, said copies of the images have been sent to U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont Eric Miller, who is looking into the case.

There were four images in total: One simply depicting Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in front of a U.S. flag with the caption "Trump 2016;" one displaying a version of the cartoon frog Pepe, as a caricature of a Jewish man with a Star of David yarmulke, smiling while standing in front of the burning World Trade Center; one with Pepe, this time depicted as Trump, standing on one side of a fence, with characters depicting Mexican and Muslim stereotypes on the other side, while Russian President Vladimir Putin looks on approvingly with the caption, "This Trump guy, I like him;" and finally, a cartoon version of Trump speaking with a Mexican woman, who tells him that he cannot separate her from her baby, who is attached to an anchor chained to her body. Trump responds, "No problem," and hurls the woman and her baby over what is labeled the "Great Wall of Trump."

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Bennington Representative Kiah Morris, a Democrat who is black, was targeted on Twitter by a Bennington resident and Trump supporter earlier this year, who posted a caricature of a black man with the caption, "S---, I be representin dem white m---f--- of Bennington, gnome sayin?" The Banner dashed certain of the caption's words for publication. That action was roundly denounced by political figures across the state, including Gov. Peter Shumlin, also a Democrat, who said, "There is no place for racism or racist vitriol in Vermont or anywhere else. This communication is an affront to Kiah and her family, to her neighbors and community, and to all Vermonters who care for one another and have no place in their hearts for hate. I know Vermonters join me in condemning hatred, bigotry, and intimidation."

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 7:27 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Subject:** Re: Follow-up

Mr. Doyle,

I telephoned [REDACTED] as he was heavily involved in the democratic office here in Bennington back in 2016. He did not return my call. I also spoke with [REDACTED] and he didn't recall the incident. Clearly the incident happened as I was able to find news articles. Maybe you could contact the U.S. Attorney's office and see if they have the copies that were allegedly forwarded to them? I would also be interested to see if they conducted an investigation.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 4:57:45 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up

Hi Chief Doucette,

Thanks for the update. One other thing would be to see if someone can get threatening materials sent to the Bennington Democratic HQ back in Oct. of 2016. You sent me an article about it the other day.

Thanks,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018 6:45 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Follow-up

Mr. Doyle,

Cpl. Lauzon was unable to meet with Lawton and Morris today due to other incidents occurring in Bennington. He will reschedule with them in the very near future. Please let me know if you need anything further.

I would also like you to know the Burlington Free Press made a request for all incidents involving this matter. We did comply with the request today. I made copies of all incidents released to the Free Press.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***



## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 11:51 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** democratic hq incident

Ultan, I located the papers and envelope that was left at the Democratic HQ in Bennington in October 2016...these are in evidence room.

Chris

***Corporal Christopher Lauzon  
Bennington Police Department  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030***

***Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov***

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: democratic hq incident  
**Attachments:** 20181116142727799.pdf

***Corporal Christopher Lauzon  
Bennington Police Department  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030***

***[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 12:02:17 PM  
**To:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: democratic hq incident

Thanks so much!

---

**From:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 12:01 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: democratic hq incident

will do! cl

***Corporal Christopher Lauzon  
Bennington Police Department  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030***

***[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 12:01:05 PM  
**To:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: democratic hq incident

Hi Chris,

Would it possible to have those scanned and emailed to me?

---

**From:** Lauzon, Chris  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 11:51 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
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118 South Street  
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*Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov*

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:03 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Ok. No worries. I just wanted to make sure the meeting had occurred.

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:02 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Working on sending you the reports now!

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
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***Public Safety Director***  
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***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:00:00 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul

**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Hi Chief,

I was just checking in to see if the interview with Ms. Morris took place this morning and if the officer was able to collect the online materials from 2016?

Thanks,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lauzon, Chris <[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Mr. Doyle,

Cpl. Lauzon just reached out to Kiah Morris and requested a meeting as she has not called him back despite Corporal Lauzon providing his personal cellphone number. She advised Corporal Lauzon she "forgot" to call him back. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 0900 hours here at the Bennington Police Department. Once the meeting concludes and a report is generated, I will forward the information to you.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***

**802-442-1030**  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:35 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** FW: Morris and Lawton investigations  
**Attachments:** 20181026152403100.pdf

Hi Chief Doucette,

In the attached report, Ms. Morris says she "received threatening social attacks, cyber stalking as well as comments made to local media [from Misch]." It's these online materials that I'm looking for. I think some or all of these materials are tweets but I'm not sure. They would be from some time between Aug and Nov of 2016.

Thanks,

Ultan

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul; Doyle, Ultan; Lauzon, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Thanks Paul. So should we expect the tweets by the end of the week?

**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:05 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>; Lauzon, Chris <Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Mr. Doyle,

Cpl. Lauzon reached out to Ms. Morris and she advised she needed a couple of days. He will check in with her again.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 12:10:18 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Hi Chief Doucette,

I just checking in to see if any progress had been made in obtaining the tweets sent to Ms. Morris from Max Misch back in 2016?

Thanks,

Ultan



**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:13 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Mr. Doyle,

The interview was brief this morning. She did provide pictures of her vehicle with some paint on it when one of her political signs was shot at with a paintball gun. I relate that back to incident 16BN06981 when she reported a paintball incident to Officer Clay Knight while he was investigating the burglary.

The pictures were shown to her and she advised James Lawton saw similar pictures on Misch's Instagram account back when the pictures were left at the headquarters. Nothing further.

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:03:26 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Ok. No worries. I just wanted to make sure the meeting had occurred.

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
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**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:02 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Working on sending you the reports now!

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
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**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:00:00 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Hi Chief,

I was just checking in to see if the interview with Ms. Morris took place this morning and if the officer was able to collect the online materials from 2016?

Thanks,

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**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lauzon, Chris <[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Mr. Doyle,

Cpl. Lauzon just reached out to Kiah Morris and requested a meeting as she has not called him back despite Corporal Lauzon providing his personal cellphone number. She advised Corporal Lauzon she "forgot" to call him back. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 0900 hours here at the Bennington Police Department. Once the meeting concludes and a report is generated, I will forward the information to you.

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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 7:55 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Hi Chief Doucette,

Ms Morris did provide the requested materials yesterday so I'm all set. Thanks for all of your help.

Ultan

On Nov 27, 2018, at 5:51 PM, Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Doyle,

Corporal Lauzon contacted Kiah Morris today and advised her he was going on days off. She advised him she needed more time and would contact the AG's office directly. I apologize we were unable to obtain the documents you are requesting.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 4:29 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Ok. Thanks so much.

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:24 PM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>; Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>;  
Lauzon, Chris <[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Mr. Doyle,

I just spoke with Corporal Lauzon and he will reach out to her tomorrow afternoon if he doesn't hear from her before.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***

***Chief of Police***

***Public Safety Director***

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---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:12:54 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul; Doyle, Ultan; Lauzon, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

Thanks Paul. So should we expect the tweets by the end of the week?

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2018 3:05 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>; Lauzon, Chris <[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>  
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**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram

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**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

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**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram

**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 1:19 PM

**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>

**Cc:** Lauzon, Chris <[Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.Lauzon@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Mr. Doyle,

Cpl. Lauzon just reached out to Kiah Morris and requested a meeting as she has not called him back despite Corporal Lauzon providing his personal cellphone number. She advised Corporal Lauzon she "forgot" to call him back. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 0900 hours here at the Bennington Police Department. Once the meeting concludes and a report is generated, I will forward the information to you.

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 1:52 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Anonymous message

Hi Chief Doucette,

I received some materials from Ms. Morris, saying that her husband received some kind of an electronic message in March of 2016. The message indicated that if Mr. Lawton did not put his wife in her place, the writer would do it for him. Mr. Lawton dismissed the message and he believes he deleted it. He said that shortly thereafter he reported it to you when he went to see you on an unrelated legislative matter. I was just checking to see if you had any record of this, and if you do, if you could send that to me.

Thanks,

*Ultan Doyle*  
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*Office of the Attorney General*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, December 3, 2018 3:45 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Hi Chief,

Do you have a few minutes to chat some time this afternoon or tomorrow?

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Friday, December 7, 2018 8:32 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Harrison, Heather  
**Subject:** FOIA

Mr. Doyle,

A reporter from the Burlington Free Press is hounding my records clerk for all of the reports, files, emails, images, etc. pertaining to Kiah Morris. We did provide reports and now they want to go further. How would you like me to proceed?

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Theft of GPS

Ok. Thanks.

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
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---

**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 2:54 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Theft of GPS

MY MISTAKE! I thought it had to do with the most recent breaks in 2018. Ms. Morris advised nothing was taken from her vehicle. Please see attached. We have a suspect and warrant in place for the 2018 incidents.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030  
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***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 2:25:58 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Theft of GPS

Hi Chief Doucette,

I just spoke with Bram Kranichfeld. He indicated that you had advised TJ that a suspect had been identified in connection with the GPS device that was stolen from Ms. Morris' car back in 2016. Would you mind forwarding me any reports that were generated in regard to this matter?

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:09 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Hi Chief Doucette,

Can you please give me a quick call when you have a moment. My direct line is [REDACTED]

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
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(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 4:21 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Morris follow-up

Mr. Doyle,

Following up on our conversation from earlier.....

Morris contacted the Bennington Police and the Capitol Police concerning the issues with her computers. She opted to have the Bennington Police Department handle the investigation with the computers. On July 28, 2018, at approximately 1216 hours, Lawton and Morris dropped the computers off at the Bennington Police Department. Corporal Christopher Lauzon took possession of the computers and placed them in the temporary evidence room at approximately 1700 hours.

On July 30, 2018, Detective Sergeant Cole notified Officer Michael Sharshon the computers were in temporary evidence. Officer Sharshon attempted to obtain the passwords from Morris without success. On August 20, 2018, Officer Sharshon obtained the passwords from Kiah Morris. Within hours of obtaining the passwords, James Lawton presented himself in the lobby of the Bennington Police Department and spoke with Officer Michael Pierce. Lawton demanded the computers be returned to him as the investigation was taking too long. The computers were not returned to him and were subsequently delivered to the Vermont State Police on August 22, 2018, for analysis.

Within **two days** of obtaining the passwords, the computers were delivered to the Vermont State Police by Officer Michael Sharshon. The delay was on the part of Morris. The computers were analyzed by the Vermont State Police and returned to Morris directly. I understand a trooper hand delivered the computers to her at her residence.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Pettrey, Lisa  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 12:28 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Paul Ducette - Bennington PD - 802-379-6731

Called and would like you to call him.

**Lisa Pettrey-Gill, RP®** | Paralegal II  
Office of the Attorney General | Civil Division  
109 State Street, 3rd Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
802.828.1105 | [lisa.pettrey@vermont.gov](mailto:lisa.pettrey@vermont.gov)

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 5:22 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Documents attached

Still working on that....Stats.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 4:28:17 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Documents attached

No I didn't. Thanks for sending.

Also, in regard to burglary, do you have any stats that would show how often crimes like this are solved?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 4:26 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Documents attached

Mr. Doyle,

I want to make sure you have the attached documents.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***



**BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
118 SOUTH STREET  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

**PAUL J. DOUCETTE  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Chief Paul J. Doucette

September 1, 2018

In response to the allegations concerning the Bennington Police Department failing to assist Representative Ruqaiyah Morris, I feel it necessary to explain the position of the Bennington Police Department and all of our efforts to assist Representative Morris and her family. All of the complaints filed by Representative Morris and her husband James have been investigated appropriately and efficiently.

In September 2016, I had meetings with Representative Morris and James Lawton concerning possible threats against Representative Morris. Neither James nor Representative Morris wished to file a police report at the time and asked that I be aware of the perceived threats. I passed the information along to members of the Bennington Police Department and directed the staff to increase patrols in the area of their residence.

In October 2016, Representative Morris and James Lawton filed a complaint against an individual for threats. The matter was investigated by the Bennington Police Department, reviewed and there was not sufficient evidence to bring criminal charges forward.

From this time until July 2018, the Bennington Police Department did not receive any complaints from Representative Morris or James Lawton concerning threatening behavior. On July 27, 2018, a friend of Representative Morris contacted me at the Bennington Police Department and said Representative Morris was upset with me because I failed to return a call to her husband, James Lawton. In fact I never received a telephone call from Lawton nor had he left any messages for me. I telephoned Representative Morris and spoke with her directly.

Representative Morris advised me she and her husband were being threatened again. She further advised she reported the threats to the Capitol Police in Montpelier. Representative Morris advised her husband James would like to talk with me. I advised her I would assign an officer to contact James. Representative Morris did contact me later and advised she spoke with James and he advised her he never called me or left a message.

---

**Phone: (802) 442-1030**

**Emergency: 9-1-1**

**Fax: (802) 442-1067**



**BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
118 SOUTH STREET  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

**PAUL J. DOUCETTE  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

Officer Michael Sharshon made several attempts to contact James Lawton. Officer Sharshon was able to speak with James about threats and possible hacking of his computer. Representative Morris emailed screen shots of information directly to me and I forwarded the information to the investigating officer. Officer Sharshon completed a report and sent the information to the Bennington County State's Attorney's Office for review.

Both computers were taken as evidence and were held at the Bennington Police Department. The investigating officer had Representative Morris sign a consent to search the computers but she did not provide the passcodes. Representative Morris advised the investigation officer she would speak with her husband and then contact the officer with the passcodes. Several days passed and Representative Morris failed to provide the passcodes. I received a call from a representative at the Vermont Attorney General's Office inquiring about the computers. The computers were still in the Bennington Police Department evidence room as we did not have the passcodes. The investigating officer went back to the residence and obtained the passcodes from Representative Morris.

Within a few hours of the passcodes being provided by Representative Morris, James Lawton presented himself at the Bennington Police Department requesting the immediate return of the computers. The computers were not returned to him. The investigating officer drove the computers to Waterbury and delivered them to the Vermont State Police for analysis.

Bennington County State's Attorney Erica Marthage and I conversed about this case several times and felt the case best be handled by the Vermont Attorney General's Office. At the time I spoke with State's Attorney Marthage, we only had the information from James Lawton and screen shots of information provided by Representative Morris. I didn't feel there was sufficient evidence to charge anyone with a crime. State's Attorney Erica Marthage and I both conversed with a representative from the Vermont Attorney General's Office.

Like many other municipal law enforcement agencies, the Bennington Police Department does not have a computer forensics investigation unit. The computers had to be sent to the Vermont State Police and that was accomplished once the passcodes were obtained.

On August 31, 2018, I met with an investigator with the Vermont State Police and provided all of the reports and documents we had pertaining to this investigation. These are the same documents that were provided to the Bennington County State's Attorney's Office and the Vermont Attorney General's Office.

No further details about this investigation may be released at this time pending the investigation of the Vermont State Police.

---

**Phone: (802) 442-1030**

**Emergency: 9-1-1**

**Fax: (802) 442-1067**

Reply all | Delete Junk |

Re: James Lawton/Kiah Morris

DP Doucette, Paul  
Wed 8/22, 11:31 AM  
Pierce, Michael L.; Grande, Camillo

Reply all |

Computers are at DPS headquarters. He will get them back once they complete thier analysis.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Pierce, Michael L.  
**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2018 11:57:49 PM  
**To:** Grande, Camillo  
**Cc:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** James Lawton/Kiah Morris

Lieutenant -

James Lawton stopped in tonight and asked to speak with a supervisor, regarding the computers he submitted to the PD several weeks back. Mr. Lawson told me that the process is taking too long and asked that the computers be returned, specifically his wife's, as she requires it for work purposes.

I advised Lawton that I had very little knowledge on this subject and a told him that I would be in touch with someone who could better address his concerns.

Lawton's phone number is [REDACTED]

Off. Michael Pierce  
Bennington PD  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802.442.1030



## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Best estimate

Yes, at minimum.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 3:06:24 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Best estimate

Thanks. It sounds like the distance between the trees and the residence would have been at least 100 yards. Am I correct in saying that?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** shurd@benningtonvt.org  
**Subject:** Best estimate

Mr. Doyle,

From [REDACTED] to the official trailhead is [REDACTED] miles. I do not know the exact location where the graffiti was painted. There is a trail approximately 100 yards from the Morris/Lawton home that leads down into the old trolley system paths. Again, without knowing the exact location, I don't know the distance.

The images show me the trees had been painted some time before the images were taken. You can clearly see the paint is old and the moss was growing over the paint. These images were taken in December 2016. It is unknown how long the paint had been on the trees.

As you can see from the attached emails, the Town of Bennington was responsive.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Here are the pics...

I am going to get you a measurement shortly.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2016 7:48 AM  
**To:** Knight, Clay  
**Subject:** Fw:

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2016 12:08 PM

**To:** Doucette, Paul; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Subject:**

Good Morning, I wanted to forward this graffiti that was found on the trails in the woods near my home. Neighbors have reported there is also an illegal encampment near these markings and have reported it using the town crime tip line.













## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah's computer

**Categories:** M-Files

Mr. Doyle,

The "threat" of DEAD DEAD was on Lawton's computer. Kiah was claiming she was threatened by Misch and wanted her computer looked at as well. As I mentioned to you, she went to the Capitol Police initially. Both computers were dropped off at the Bennington Police Department to be analyzed by the Vermont State Police.

Both computers were delivered to the lab by Officer Michael Sharshon. I assume the report from the Vermont State Police will indicate who returned the computers to Morris/Lawton. I understand they were hand delivered.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030  
802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 8:54:47 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Kiah's computer

Hi Chief,

Do you know why Kiah's computer was turned over along with her husbands at the end of July? Was there some thought at the time that it would be forensically examined too? Were both computer's transported to the lab or was it just Lawton's?

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Case # 18BN07818

Sorry. In my last email, I meant to reference case # 18BN07818

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:27 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Case # 18BN07200

Sorry. One more question. Were any charges filed against juvenile ██████████ in case # 18BN07200 for the Oct. 13 "ding-dong-ditch" incident? I see ██████ was cited for the vandalism, but I didn't see anything about the ding-dong-ditching incident. I'm assuming ██████ was not cited for this, but I just wanted to double-check?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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communication in error, please call us (collect) immediately at (802-828-5511) and ask to speak to the sender of the communication. Also, please notify immediately via e-mail the sender that you have received the communication in error.

**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Case # 18BN07200

Mr. Doyle,

Attached you will find a case reaction form indicating no court action for incident #18BN07200. I am also attaching 18BN07203 and 18BN08520 for your review.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 10:16:02 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Case # 18BN07200

Hi Chief Doucette,

The report in this case indicates it was sent to the SA's office for review. Do you know if any charges were ever filed against any of the juveniles?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:40 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Juvenile charges?

Mr. Doyle,

We issued notices against trespass to the juveniles involved in these incidents.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 11:27:00 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Juvenile charges?

Hi Chief,

Do you know if any charges were ever filed against any of the juveniles involved in the "ding-dong-ditch" incidents in Sept. and Oct.?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 1:13 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Case # 18BN07200

Ok. Thanks.

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 1:10 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Case # 18BN07200

Mr. Doyle,

██████████ was charged with vandalism along with ██████████ as a result of the cemetery incident.

Both were later arrested for Obstruction of Justice (November 14, 2018) and remanded to Woodside Juvenile Detention Facility.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***

**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:26:45 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: Case # 18BN07200

Sorry. One more question. Were any charges filed against juvenile [REDACTED] in case # 18BN07200 for the Oct. 13 "ding-dong-ditch" incident? I see [REDACTED] was cited for the vandalism, but I didn't see anything about the ding-dong-ditching incident. I'm assuming [REDACTED] was not cited for this, but I just wanted to double-check?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
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**From:** Doucette, Paul <[Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Case # 18BN07200

Mr. Doyle,

Attached you will find a case reaction form indicating no court action for incident #18BN07200. I am also attaching 18BN07203 and 18BN08520 for your review.

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**



**Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030  
802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 10:16:02 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** Case # 18BN07200

Hi Chief Doucette,

The report in this case indicates it was sent to the SA's office for review. Do you know if any charges were ever filed against any of the juveniles?

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 2:31 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: More reports

Yes. They were spoken to with parents present and trespass notices issued.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 2:29:00 PM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** RE: More reports

Hi Chief,

Thanks for sending. I had all of these reports except for 18BN07765.

Just so I'm crystal clear, is it fair to say that no charges were filed against any of the juveniles in regard to the "ding-dong-ditch" incidents at Morris/Lawton residence and the Benoit residence?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Doucette, Paul <Paul.Doucette@vermont.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 1:33 PM

**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>

**Subject:** More reports

Mr. Doyle,

I am sending you more reports....These reports will show you we are responsive to complaints filed by James Lawton. I don't believe you have these reports.

For the record, I am not related to [REDACTED] in any way, shape or form.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Fw: A note on potentially threatening communications  
**Attachments:** Suspicious Mail.pdf

Mr. Doyle,

Please scroll down through and read the email sent by Chief Romei to all legislators...I did not change the font or underline anything. This is his original message sent on September 5, 2018. I do feel your findings should include information from the Capitol Police.

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 3:34 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Fw: A note on potentially threatening communications

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.***  
***Chief of Police***  
***Public Safety Director***  
***Town of Bennington***  
***118 South Street***  
***Bennington, Vermont 05201***  
***802-442-1030***  
***802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

---

**From:** Matthew Romei <MRomei@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 6, 2018 10:27 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** FW: A note on potentially threatening communications

Matthew S. Romei  
Chief of Police  
Capitol Police Department  
115 State Street – State House  
Montpelier, VT 05633  
Dispatch (802) 828-2229  
Office (802) 828-2273

---

**From:** Matthew Romei  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 05, 2018 8:23 AM  
**Subject:** A note on potentially threatening communications

Greetings!

We have received some inquiries lately from members about nasty, and occasionally threatening communications. I wanted to provide you some context and a primer on what to do when you receive these communications.

First, if you feel like you are in immediate danger, your first call should always be to 911, no matter where you are and no matter what role you are in. Immediate danger could be anything from someone saying to you “I’m on my way over to do ‘x’ to you” or someone showing up to confront you at your home, business or in public. **To our knowledge, no one in the General Assembly, or any staff member has been threatened in such a manner.**

If you receive communication that you believe is threatening, please retain that communication (Save the voice mail, etc) and contact either the Capitol Police or your local law enforcement agency. The decision between calling us or your local agency really rests with if you believe that the communication arises as part of your official capacity. If it is connected to your official position or job, please contact us immediately. Regardless of the nature, if you contact your local law enforcement agency, please ask them to keep us informed - it is important for us to have a clear picture of the threat matrix against our facility and personnel. If you contact us, we will work the case and assist you through the process.

I should take a moment here and mention suspicious letters and packages. I have attached a PDF to this e-mail that tells you what to look for. If you receive suspicious mail, don’t handle it and call for help. **To our knowledge, no one in the General Assembly, or any staff member has received anything like this.**

Now that I have told you twice that no one has received these things, I will say that we have worked an unprecedented, but still very small, number of cases in 2018 involving real and perceived threats to members and staff. With this being an election season, I have to remind you that people will say not-nice things about candidates and those around them. Occasionally, those comments have crossed the line. There is currently a spate of e-mail based bomb threats plaguing government agencies across the country. Additionally, we have received calls within the State House that were directed at our elected US Representatives. The Capitol Police take these calls seriously, and work with our State, Local and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to analyze, assess and resolve these incidents. We will always be here to assist you in a threat analysis, but it is important that we see the whole picture and try to connect loose ends. To that end, I encourage you to report odd and suspicious phone calls, messages and such.

A reminder on how to contact us:

802-828-2273 – Non-emergency “Office” phone, answered during business hours.

802-828-2229 – Emergency Line, answered by our dispatchers at Montpelier Police 24/7/365

You also may contact me at 802-839-0222 any time.

Chief

**Matthew S. Romei**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Capitol Police Department**  
**115 State Street – State House**  
**Montpelier, VT 05633**  
**Dispatch (802) 828-2229**  
**Office (802) 828-2273**

# SUSPICIOUS MAIL OR PACKAGES

**Protect yourself, your business, and your mailroom.**

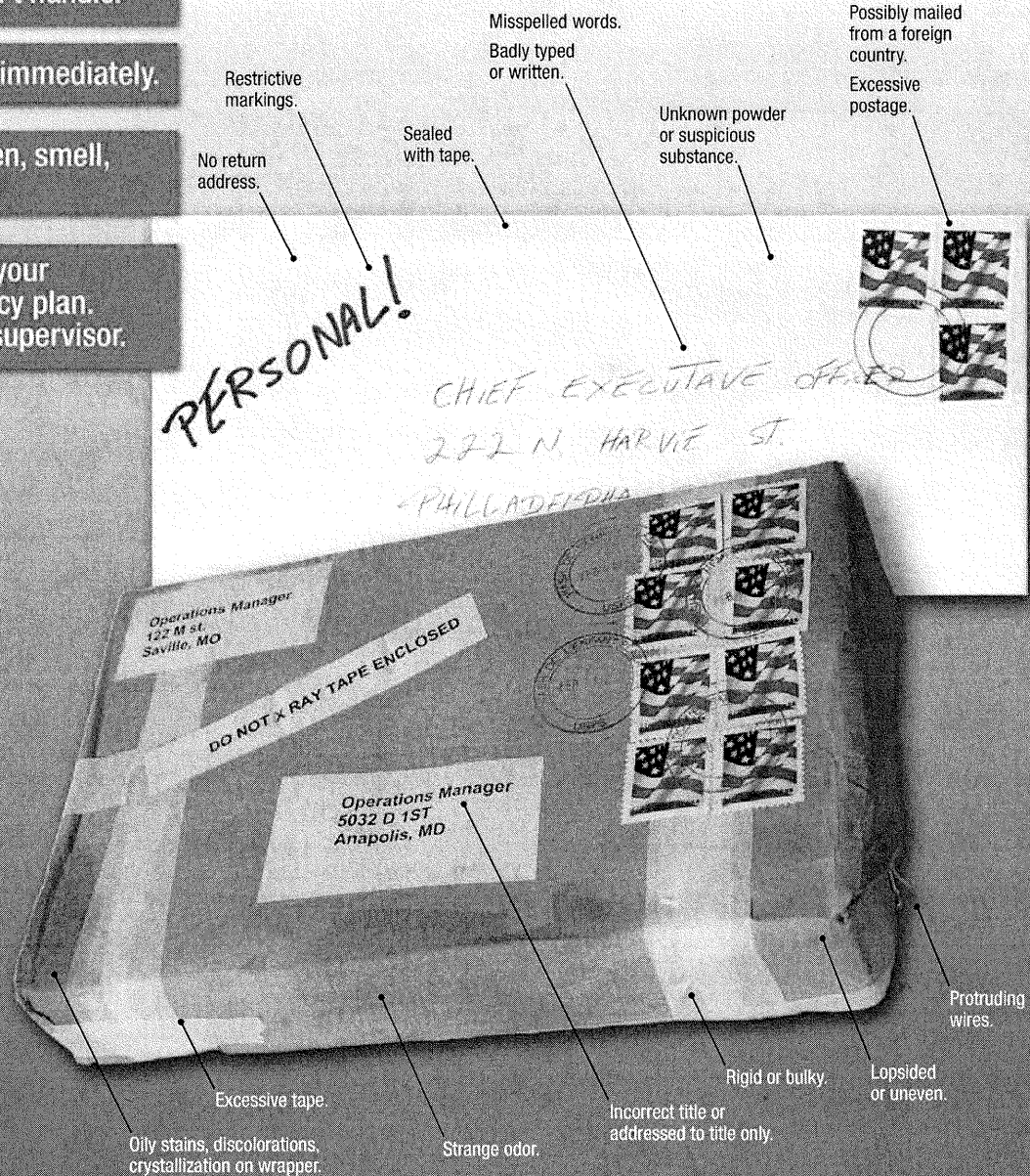
**If you receive a suspicious letter or package:**

▪ Stop. Don't handle.

▪ Isolate it immediately.

▪ Don't open, smell, or taste.

▪ Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.



**If you suspect the mail or package contains a bomb (explosive), or radiological, biological, or chemical threat:**

▪ Isolate area immediately ▪ Call 911 ▪ Wash your hands with soap and water



## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 11:39 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Fw: worth reading

More....

**Paul J. Doucette, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Public Safety Director**  
**Town of Bennington**  
**118 South Street**  
**Bennington, Vermont 05201**  
**802-442-1030**  
**802-442-1067 (fax)**

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)**

---

**From:** Dean, Lloyd  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 9:49 AM  
**To:** Doucette, Paul  
**Subject:** worth reading

Worth reading

<http://truenorthreports.com/local-residents-accuse-kiah-morris-and-husband-of-hypocrisy-regarding-alleged-threats>



## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doucette, Paul  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 4:27 PM  
**To:** Marthage, Erica; shurd@benningtonvt.org; dmonks@benningtonvt.org  
**Cc:** Donovan, Thomas; Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** More misinformation printed by the Burlington Free Press  
**Attachments:** 20190102161920298.pdf

***Paul J. Doucette, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
Public Safety Director  
Town of Bennington  
118 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-442-1030  
802-442-1067 (fax)***

***PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL: [paul.doucette@vermont.gov](mailto:paul.doucette@vermont.gov)***

BENNINGTON — On a December day two years ago, then-state Rep. Kiah Morris walked into a Bennington courtroom to face the man she accused of harassing her online because of her race.

Morris, Vermont's only female African American lawmaker, complained that Max Misch had been tweeting "racially charged" words and images at her.

"I want him to leave us alone," Morris said in December 2016, when she asked a judge for a no-stalking order against Misch, according to an official recording of the hearing obtained by the Burlington Free Press. "I want to feel safe."

The Twitter posts began a series of incidents both online and around Morris' home, many involving people other than Misch, that would leave Morris and her family scared and exasperated.

Police responded to complaints by Morris or her family at least 16 times in the last two years, records show. The incidents ranged from suspicious vehicles in the nearby cemetery, to kids knocking on their doors and windows at night, to racially-charged social media posts and the words "dead dead" found on a computer.

Bennington County prosecutors declined to charge anyone with a crime.

Misch, a self-described white nationalist, told the judge that he wanted his tweets to make Morris feel uncomfortable. He had tweeted at Morris with a caricature of a black person saying a profanity-laced comment about representing white residents of Bennington.

"I just found it incongruent that you have an African American woman representing a 96 percent white district," Misch said in court, according to a recording of the hearing. "It's a joke, your honor. It's a troll joke."

In the civil case, Vermont Superior Court Judge William Cohen ordered Misch to stay away from Morris and her son on the basis of two tweets. The no-stalking order would last a year.

Morris, however, never got her wish to feel safe.

In August 2018, the Democratic lawmaker dropped her bid for a third term in the Vermont House, and the Attorney General's Office announced it would investigate the online threats against her.

Then Morris resigned her seat entirely, saying she needed to help her husband recover from heart surgery and citing continued harassment.

**More:** Letter to the editor: Kiah Morris - thank you for your support

The case raised questions about how well Bennington police, and the laws they enforce, protect people from online harassment or "trolling." "Trolling" is an Internet-age term describing the practice of making provocative, deliberately offensive posts to upset someone.

Morris' decision made national news, in no small part because her experience seemed at odds with Vermont's self-image as a progressive haven.

**More:** VT Insights: Kiah Morris' departure after racist threats draws national attention

"Vermont has this myth that we are somehow different and better than the rest of the country," said Robert Appel, an attorney representing Morris and her husband.

"Unfortunately, in this regard, I don't think we are."

## Can white Vermont handle racial trolling?

Morris and her family believe the local police response should have been "more prompt and vigorous," Appel said.

Morris also believes that state laws regarding threats and hate crimes were not strong enough to protect her.

"Our system is not sufficient, and our understanding of how these terrorism tactics are used is not sufficient," Morris said. "That is a deliberate tactic — to dance on that line between saying 'I will come and punch you in the face' to 'I'm just sort of going to make you fear that something might happen should I see you.'"

**More:** Hate crimes in Vermont: Why police, lawyers sometimes disagree if someone crossed the line

Bennington County State's Attorney Erica Marthage said she is proud of how her office and Bennington police handled what happened to Morris.



Buy Photo

Bennington County State's Attorney Erica Marthage, pictured in her office on Dec. 7 2018 (Photo: JESS ALOE/FREE PRESS)

Vermont law sees a threat as something that a "reasonable person" would find threatening, as interpreted by police, prosecutors and a jury. Marthage found the evidence failed to rise to the level of a crime.

"We looked at the law, we looked at the behavior," she said. "Rather than file a charge based on my emotion about the situation, we looked at just the facts and what we could prove."

Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette stands by his department's handling of the Morris case.

"All of the complaints filed by Representative Morris and her husband James have been investigated appropriately and efficiently," Doucette wrote in a September news release.

Doucette did not respond to requests for an interview, and Bennington Town Manager Stuart Hurd declined to comment for this article.

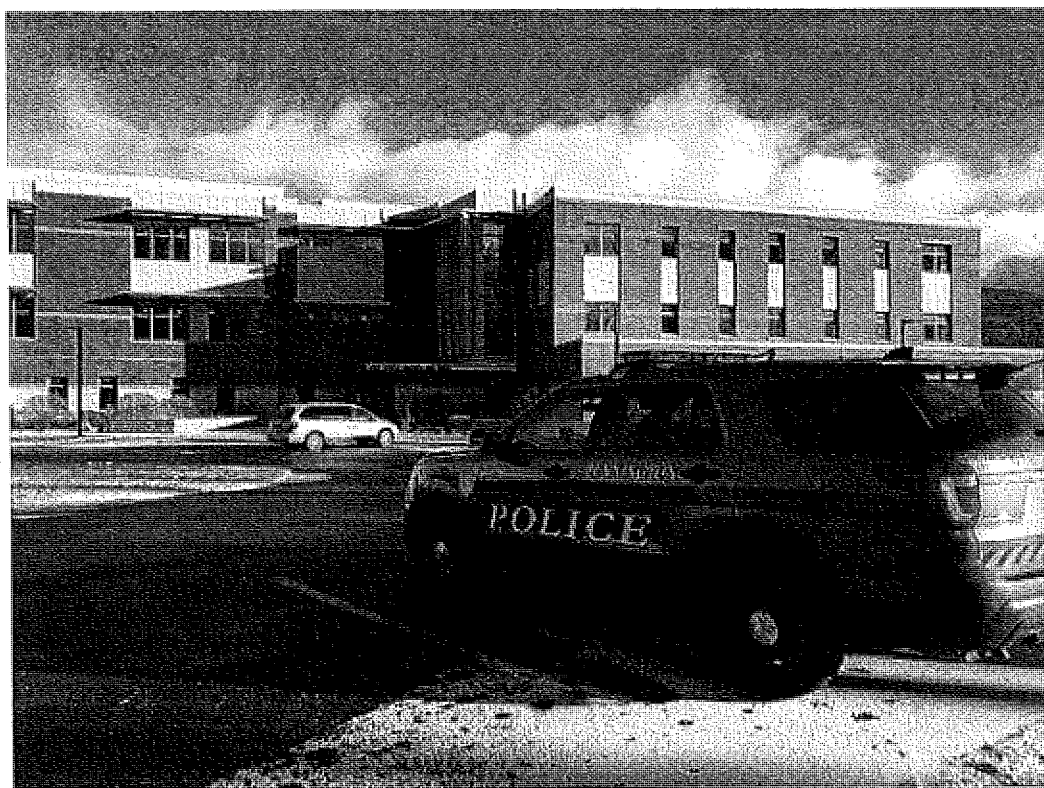
## Bennington police challenged over racial disparities

Bennington is a quiet town of about 15,000 people, tucked into the corner of the state near the New York and Massachusetts borders.

As of 2017, 95.9 percent of the town's population was identified as "white alone," according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The "Black or African American alone" population was 1.2 percent.

"The most visible leaders we have in this community go generations back, to almost the founding of this community," Morris said. "So the diversity of voices and experiences is minute to almost nonexistent in some ways."

The Bennington Police Department has repeatedly been in the center of controversies over how the department handles race and racial bias.



Buy Photo

A Bennington police cruiser, seen here on Dec. 9, 2018 in front of the Bennington town offices and criminal court (Photo: JESS ALOE/FREE PRESS)

On a summer night in 2013, Bennington Police Detective Peter Urbanowicz noticed a "large, African-American man" in the passenger seat of a cab that had stopped to ask for directions to a Chinese restaurant.

Urbanowicz testified that he knew officers were looking for a large, African-American man nicknamed "Sizzle," and so decided to search the passenger. The cab's passenger, Shamel Alexander, was not "Sizzle," but he did have 11 grams of heroin on him.

In 2016, the Vermont Supreme Court overturned Alexander's conviction, ruling that Bennington police lacked reasonable suspicion for the search.

But Chief Doucette brushed aside the idea that the ruling — an unusual step for the state's highest court — was a sign that Bennington police needed to change.

"Racial profiling does not go on within this agency," Doucette told WCAX reporter Eva McKend.

University of Vermont professor Stephanie Seguino and Cornell University professor Nancy Brooks released a study of police traffic stops the following year showing that black drivers in Bennington were searched more than five and a half times as often as white drivers. The disparity was widespread, showing up in the traffic stop records of 22 of the 24 Bennington officers the professors examined.

**More:** Study: Vermont police stop data show racial disparities

Frustrated by the police and the town's refusal to address bias issues, the Vermont chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sued the town of Bennington, the police department and Doucette.

U.S. District Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford handed the civil rights advocates a crucial victory in summer of 2018, ruling that they had presented a reasonable case that Doucette and Bennington failed to train or supervise officers — and that failure amounted to deliberate indifference. The lawsuit is ongoing.



Buy Photo

Ruqaiyah "Kiah" Morris, seen here at her office on Dec. 6, 2018, was the only female African-American legislator until she resigned, citing racial harassment. *(Photo: JESS ALOE and APRIL MCCULLUM/FREE PRESS)*

## 'I cannot live in fear'

Police records show a series of uncomfortable incidents that began during the 2016 election.

Morris saw the Twitter posts from Misch in August.

Two months later, someone entered Morris' home, possibly through an unlocked basement door. About 100 of her husband's ties were missing, several of them strewn around the historic town cemetery across the street from their home, according to a police report.

Police reports show no arrests in the case.



Buy Photo

The Bennington County Democratic Party had an office on this block of Main Street in downtown Bennington in October 2016, when the office received racist materials and a harassing phone call. (Photo: APRIL MCCULLUM/FREE PRESS)

The next day, not far from Morris and Lawton's home, staff at the Democratic Party office in Bennington found a packet of racially-charged images that someone had slid under the door.

"My campaign sign was like front and center on the windows," Morris said. "It just didn't seem random."

**More:** Dems close office after receiving racist material

A Democratic staffer also reported a harassing phone call. No arrests were announced.

Morris and her husband installed a camera and new lock at their home and changed their daily habits.

On election day in 2016, Morris was standing outside the back door of the Bennington Fire Department, her polling place, when she saw Misch watching her.

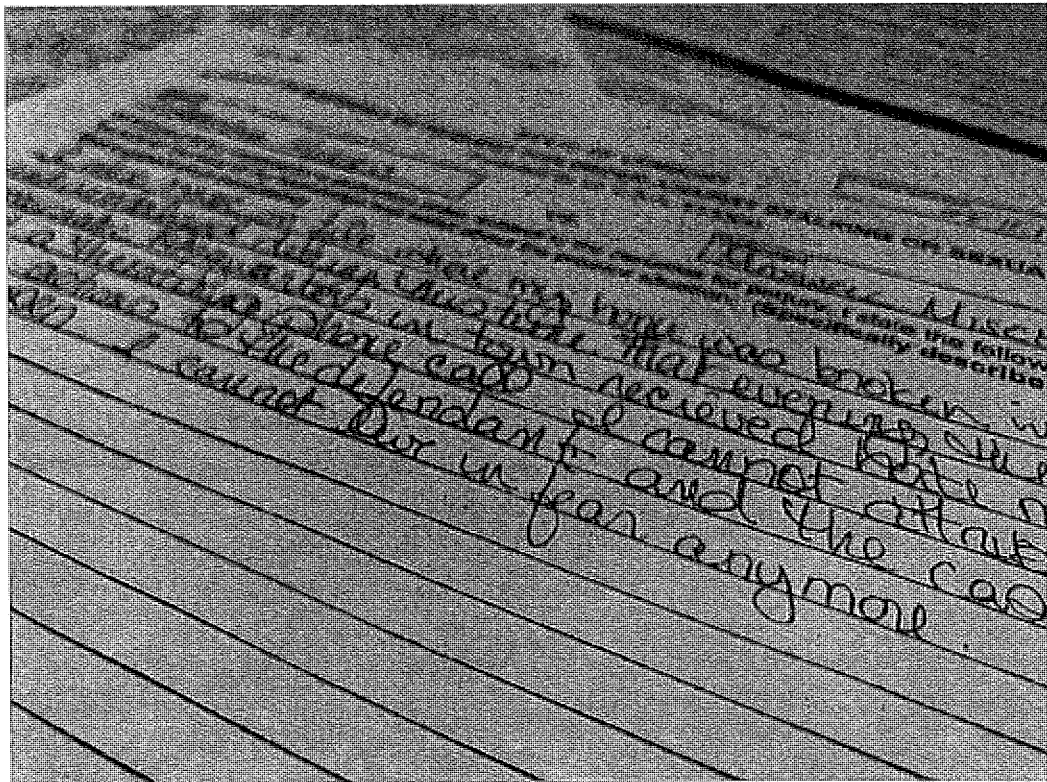
As Misch left the polling place, he stopped and looked at Morris for about 10 seconds, according to witness statements included in police reports. Then he took a few steps away before turning toward her again.



"I have been afraid and concerned for my safety throughout this ordeal," Morris wrote in her court application for no-stalking order against Misch. "I cannot live in fear anymore."

When the incident came up in civil court, Misch denied that he had stared at Morris for any length of time. He said he was worried that Morris was electioneering too close to the polls.

Without a lawyer by his side, Misch also made disparaging statements in court about Jewish people and African Americans. He defended the image that he had posted on Twitter.



Buy Photo

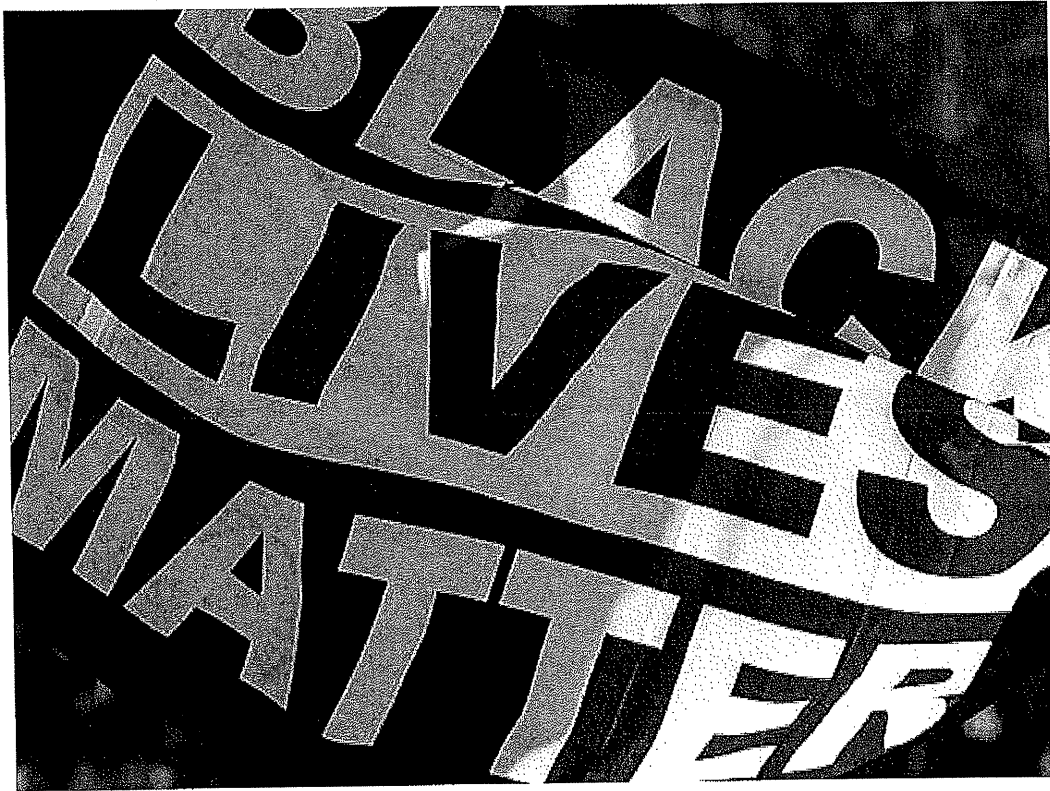
A sworn statement written by Kiah Morris in 2016 (Photo: JESS ALOE/FREE PRESS)

## Back in the Statehouse

Morris returned to Montpelier the following January with a new committee assignment, the House Judiciary Committee, and a new resolve to speak about issues of race.

"It just put a fire in me," Morris said. She became more pointed in her critiques and gave a floor speech in support of a Black Lives Matter resolution in 2017.

"This is not a question of whether some lives matter more than others," Morris said on the House floor, "but an acknowledgment, honoring and calling out of the disparate treatment of Black Vermonters and Black Americans."



Buy Photo

**A Black Lives Matter Flag was raised outside Burlington High School on Monday, February 19, 2018. (Photo: GLENN RUSSELL/FREE PRESS)**

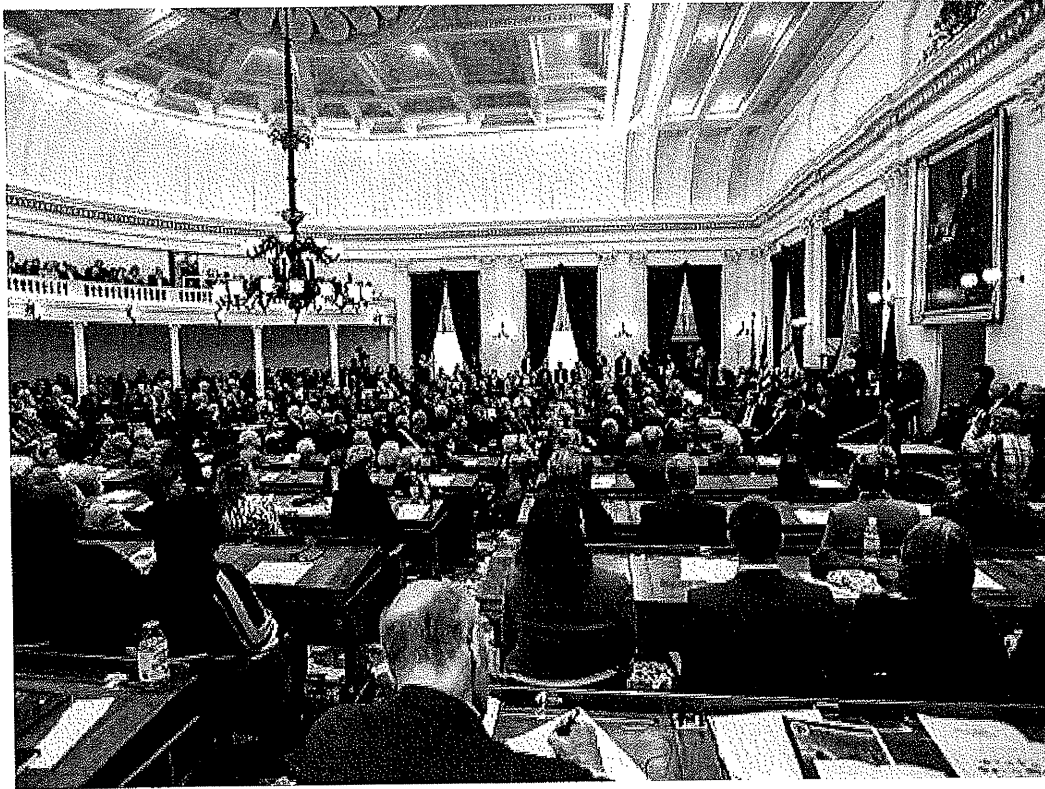
Sha'an Moulert, a community organizer and racial justice educator from the Northeast Kingdom, was in the House chamber to hear Morris' speech.

"For me to be in the room and see a black woman representative in this state ... talk about an impossible dream," Moulert said.

Morris also proposed legislation that would require schools to change their curriculum to recognize marginalized groups, overhaul Vermont's hate crimes law, outlaw racial profiling by police and create an office to examine systemic racism in state government.

**More:** Hate crimes in Vermont: Four case studies on how enforcement is practiced

"We don't have time to hold hands and slowly wait for another day," Morris said in an interview. "The day was yesterday."



Buy Photo

Members of the Vermont House of Representatives and Senate listen to Gov. Phil Scott's Inaugural address on Thursday, January 5, 2017. (Photo: FREE PRESS FILE)

## The final straws

Morris's no-stalking order against Misch lasted a year, ending in December of 2017.

"About a month or two after that, I was like — you know what? I'm now able to commence my trolling," Misch told the Burlington Free Press in an interview this winter.

Morris and her husband brought Misch's social media posts to the Bennington police in late July 2018. They described him as a "local neo-Nazi."

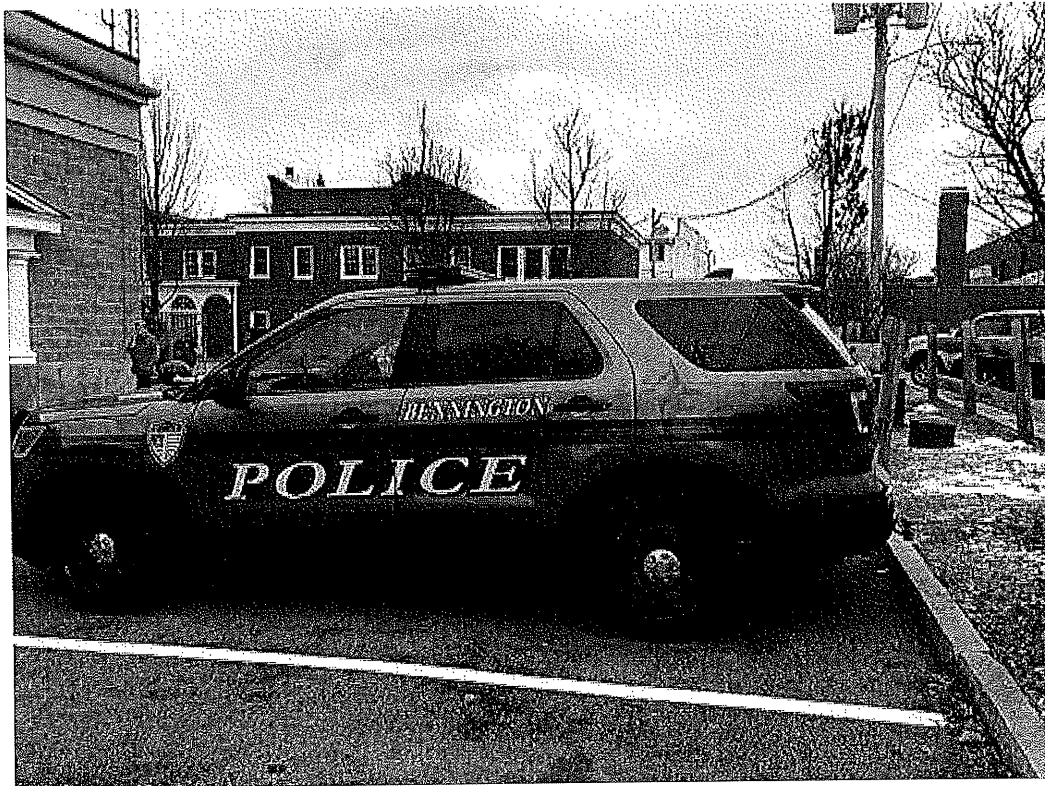
Bennington police officer Michael Sharshon looked at the posts and said there was no crime.

"The only action Misch claimed he would do is 'troll' Morris at a rally," Sharshon wrote in a police report.

Marthage later agreed when she reviewed the case.

"They were engaging in a lot of the conversation with him," Marthage said of the social media posts. "So it was a lot of back and forth. That to me, shows a lack of fear."

Morris disputes Marthage's claim that she and her husband engaged in "a lot of back and forth" with Misch. "It's a very odd comment to make from somebody who's supposed to be about protecting the public," Morris said.



Buy Photo

A Bennington police cruiser, seen here on Dec. 9, 2018 (Photo: JESS ALOE/FREE PRESS)

Lawton also told the officer that when he turned on his computer, his name on his log-in screen had been replaced with the words "dead dead." Lawton and Morris took the message as a death threat, and they gave their computers to Bennington Police with the expectation that Vermont State Police experts would examine them.

But after Officer Sharshon consulted with a state police task force of computer experts, he wrote on Aug. 1 that the computers "would not be forensically analyzed."

One week later, on Aug. 7, Vermont Internet Crimes Taskforce Commander Matthew Raymond wrote a memo to clarify that state troopers were ready to examine the computer and believed it was possible to obtain evidence from an exam to advance an investigation.

"There was an impression that VT-ICAC recommended that no computer exam be conducted," he wrote. "I am writing this report to correct that impression."

Raymond added that he had tried to reach Doucette five days earlier, on Aug. 3, to speak about the case, leaving him a voicemail and sending him an email, but received no return phone call.

Morris said she spoke with Doucette on Aug. 13 and learned no action had been taken on the computers. She has described the inaction as one of the tipping points in her decision to leave public office.

On Aug. 27, Attorney General T.J. Donovan announced his office would work with the State Police and "appropriate computer forensic experts" to investigate online threats against Morris.

## Leaving the Legislature

Ten days after she won the Democratic nomination for a third term as state representative, Morris announced she was dropping her campaign.

"The last two years have been emotionally difficult for many," Morris wrote on Facebook on Aug. 24. "Political discourse, and in particular within the sphere of social media has been divisive, inflammatory and at times, even dangerous."

In September, Morris and her husband reported that youths were repeatedly banging and knocking on their windows and doors at night and running off.

The police officer wrote in a report that the incidents appeared to be a "juvenile prank." Marthage declined to take action against the youths. Morris called them a strategic targeting of her home.

"It really was distressing to know that our chief of police thought it was just kids being kids," she said.

A few days later, Morris announced she was resigning from the Legislature immediately to care for her husband after his surgery.

"We face continued harassment and seek legal remedies to the harm endured," Morris wrote on Facebook. Her page flooded with comments of support.

"What I saw was a person who stood up against all odds and went as far as she could go without doing any more damage to herself," said Mouliert, the racial justice educator.

Misch said he felt a sense of satisfaction when he saw Morris had resigned.

"I thought I won. I did it," Misch said. "I didn't threaten her whatsoever, nothing like that, and I still accomplished what I wanted here."

Morris hopes that her experiences will prompt lawmakers to take another look at the line between free speech and criminal threatening.

**More:** Black Vermont lawmaker Kiah Morris resigns following racial threats

Looking back, Morris has no regrets about her decision to join the Legislature and become a public figure.

But when she speaks to new legislators, Morris suggests that they learn how hate crimes work. Be prepared for doxxing, the tactic of posting someone's personal information online to stoke harassment.

And she cautions them: Think about your safety.

**The breakdown:** 4 things to know about Kiah Morris resignation

We hope you will continue to support the Burlington Free Press by **subscribing here**.

*Contact Jess Aloe at 802-660-1874 or [jaloe@freepressmedia.com](mailto:jaloe@freepressmedia.com). Follow her on Twitter [@jess\\_aloe](https://twitter.com/jess_aloe). Contact April McCullum at 802-660-1863 or [amccullum@freepressmedia.com](mailto:amccullum@freepressmedia.com). Follow her on Twitter at [@April\\_McCullum](https://twitter.com/April_McCullum).*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:31 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Info from Rep Morris  
**Attachments:** IMG\_1602.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2018 2:53 PM  
**To:** Bailey, Jay  
**Subject:** FW: Info from Rep Morris

Jay - can you help me open these attachments?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jill Krowinski <JKrowinski@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2018 11:47 AM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram <Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Info from Rep Morris

Hi Bram,

Here's the latest from Kiah. I really appreciate you and TJ doing whatever you can to help. Our IT team thinks they got into her home Wi-Fi.

Talk soon,  
Jill



## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:30 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Samples  
**Attachments:** Screen Shot 2018-07-06 at 1.47.22 PM.png

---

**From:** Jill Krowinski [mailto:JKrowinski@leg.state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 1:51 PM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Samples

Hi Bram,

Thanks for looking into this. Here are two samples, let me know if you want a couple more.

Chat soon,  
Jill

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:49 AM  
**To:** Jacob S Oblak; Doyle, Ultan; Farr, Amy  
**Subject:** FW: Message from "RNP002673A5E06A"  
**Attachments:** 20180802132930263.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Marthage, Erica  
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 2:31 PM  
To: Kranichfeld, Bram  
Subject: FW: Message from "RNP002673A5E06A"

Erica A. Marthage  
Bennington County State's Attorney

erica.marthage@vermont.gov  
(802) 442-8116

-----Original Message-----

From: DO.NOT.REPLY@Bennington.sas <DO.NOT.REPLY@Bennington.sas>  
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 12:30 AM  
To: Marthage, Erica <Erica.Marthage@vermont.gov>  
Subject: Message from "RNP002673A5E06A"

This E-mail was sent from "RNP002673A5E06A" (MP 5054).

Scan Date: 08.02.2018 13:29:29 (+0900)  
Queries to: DO.NOT.REPLY@Bennington.sas

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 4:38 PM  
**To:** Raymond, Matthew  
**Cc:** Farr, Amy  
**Subject:** FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order

Matt,

Please go ahead with the examination.

-Bram

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 4:37 PM  
**To:** 'Kiah Morris' <[KMorris@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:KMorris@leg.state.vt.us)>; Pepper, James <[James.Pepper@vermont.gov](mailto:James.Pepper@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: K. Hoyt Stalking Order

Thank you Kiah. We will proceed with the examination.

**From:** Kiah Morris <[KMorris@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:KMorris@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 4:02 PM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>; Pepper, James <[James.Pepper@vermont.gov](mailto:James.Pepper@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: K. Hoyt Stalking Order

Thank You Bram,

I am sure that you can understand my hesitance to rely on the word of BPD regarding transfer. It has been three weeks since they were first voluntarily surrendered and twice we have been told misinformation about their whereabouts. I will maintain the consent to search and trust that your offices will handle any issues that may arise, promptly.

Thank you for your hard work and diligence on my case.

Kiah Morris

State Representative

Bennington 2-2

State of Vermont

House Judiciary Committee

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 2:59:57 PM

**To:** Kiah Morris; Pepper, James

**Subject:** RE: K. Hoyt Stalking Order

Representative Morris,

Thank you for reaching out on this. Please clarify your position with regard to your consent to search the laptop. Currently the laptop is in the custody of the Bennington Police Department and was scheduled to be transferred to the lab for examination on the morning of 8/22/2018 (tomorrow). The exam would not take long and the laptop could be returned relatively quickly.

To the extent that you are revoking consent and do not want the laptop examined by the lab, but rather intend to have it looked at by a local IT professional, please be aware that the chain of custody on the device would be broken and we would not be able to further pursue a criminal forensic investigation on the laptop. Local IT professionals are not certified to forensically recover data from digital devices and cannot be utilized as a replacement for our trained and certified digital forensic examiners.

We are willing to examine the device and ready to do so tomorrow. Please confirm whether you want us to proceed or if you want the laptop returned, in which case we cannot guarantee that we will be able to continue to assist in this part of the investigation. If you are revoking your consent, I will contact Bennington PD immediately and cancel the transport of the laptop to the lab.

Bram Kranichfeld  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Division Chief, Criminal Division  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
(802) 828-5517 (phone)  
[bram.kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:bram.kranichfeld@vermont.gov)

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unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution of the material or taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the electronically transmitted materials is prohibited.

**From:** Kiah Morris <[KMorris@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:KMorris@leg.state.vt.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 1:38 PM

**To:** Pepper, James <[James.Pepper@vermont.gov](mailto:James.Pepper@vermont.gov)>; Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** K. Hoyt Stalking Order

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the Denial of Emergency Relief for Kevin Hoyt against my husband James Lawton. According to BPD, Hoyt tried to seek domestic terrorism charges and was instructed to seek a stalking order instead. You will note that one of the pages of the affidavit is out of order.

I would still like to request the return of my laptop, the ASUS immediately. I can have it scanned by local IT professionals in the area for malware. We will share any incidents with the AG's office that we receive.

Kiah Morris

State Representative

Bennington 2-2

State of Vermont

House Judiciary Committee

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:48 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan; Farr, Amy; Jacob S Oblak  
**Subject:** FW: Message from "200VMD-3-RicohMPC4502"  
**Attachments:** 201808240944.pdf

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Marthage, Erica  
**Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2018 11:06 AM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** FW: Message from "200VMD-3-RicohMPC4502"

Here is the case review for James Lawton. I intend to no action both the Lawton case review and the previous one I sent you as soon as I get word from you guys. Apparently James has now spent a lot of time putting together another packet of information. Do you know what's going on with the laptop? We need a definitive end this and the computer may be the best way to prove it one way or another

Erica A. Marthage  
Bennington County State's Attorney

erica.marthage@vermont.gov  
(802) 442-8116

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DO.NOT.REPLY@Bennington.sas <DO.NOT.REPLY@Bennington.sas>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2018 9:45 AM  
**To:** Marthage, Erica <Erica.Marthage@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Message from "200VMD-3-RicohMPC4502"

This E-mail was sent from "200VMD-3-RicohMPC4502" (Aficio MP C4502).

Scan Date: 08.24.2018 09:44:38 (-0400)  
Queries to: DO.NOT.REPLY@Bennington.sas

18-14035

*Deputy State's Attorneys*  
Robert Plunkett  
Alexander Burke  
Jonathan Ward  
John Lurvey



*Victim Advocates*  
Tammy Loveland  
Whitney Kalinowski

*Investigator*  
Lloyd Dean

STATE OF VERMONT  
Bennington County State's Attorney's Office  
*Erica A. Marthage*  
200 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite 10  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
(802) 442-8116  
FAX (802) 447-2775  
TTY Available

## CASE REACTION FORM

TO: BENNINGTON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
FROM: Off. M. SHARSHOW  
CASE #: 18BN05584  
OFFENSE: DISORDERLY CONDUCT VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS  
ACCUSED: MAX MESCH 1-24-1983

I have reviewed the paperwork indicated above and request the following action:

- Complete case for court action
- Obtain statement from witness
- Prepare Affidavit of Probable Cause
- NO COURT ACTION
- Will file case as is, no further action needed by you
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(State's/Deputy Attorney)

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Complete form to be sent back to Officer after review by State's Attorney)

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Morris Evidence

**From:** Marthage, Erica  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2018 11:58 AM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** FW: Morris Evidence

Erica A. Marthage  
Bennington County State's Attorney

[erica.marthage@vermont.gov](mailto:erica.marthage@vermont.gov)  
(802) 442-8116

**From:** Gauthier, Richard  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2018 8:47 AM  
**To:** Marthage, Erica <[Erica.Marthage@vermont.gov](mailto:Erica.Marthage@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Morris Evidence

Richard B. Gauthier  
Executive Director  
VT Criminal Justice Training Council  
802-483-2738 (Work)  
802-342-6310 (Cell)  
[Richard.gauthier@vermont.gov](mailto:Richard.gauthier@vermont.gov)

---

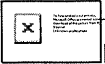
**From:** "NAACP Rutland (via Google Slides)" <[naacprutland@gmail.com](mailto:naacprutland@gmail.com)>  
**Reply-To:** NAACP Rutland <[naacprutland@gmail.com](mailto:naacprutland@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Friday, August 24, 2018 at 6:34 PM  
**To:** "Gauthier, Richard" <[Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov](mailto:Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Morris Evidence

naacprutland@gmail.com has shared a link to the following presentation:



Morris Evidence





Hi Rick

Here are the screenshots of everything Kiah and Jim could remember. I told them if anything else pops into memory, please add and let us know.

Tabitha

[Open in Slides](#)

Google Slides: Create and edit presentations online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: State Rep. Kiah Morris divened from office by [REDACTED] harassment & threats

**From:** Donovan, Thomas  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 26, 2018 8:54 PM  
**To:** Clark, Charity; Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Fwd: State Rep. Kiah Morris divened from office by [REDACTED] harassment & threats

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Richard Sears <[RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 26, 2018 8:01:52 PM  
**To:** Donovan, Thomas; Stuart Hurd  
**Subject:** Fwd: State Rep. Kiah Morris divened from office by [REDACTED] harassment & threats

Dick Sears  
State Senator, Bennington County and Wilmington  
343 Matteson Rd.  
North Bennington, VT 05257  
Chair Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee

---

**From:** "LEE RUSS" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Sunday, August 26, 2018 at 2:03:35 PM  
**To:** "Brian Campion" <[BCampion@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:BCampion@leg.state.vt.us)>, "Timothy Corcoran" <[TCorcoran@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:TCorcoran@leg.state.vt.us)>, "Mary Morrissey" <[MMORRISSEY@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:MMORRISSEY@leg.state.vt.us)>, "Richard Sears" <[RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Subject:** State Rep. Kiah Morris divened from office by [REDACTED] harassment & threats

As I'm sure you have heard, Kiah Morris, a state representative from my district, Bennington 2-2, has decided not to run for reelection despite having just won the primary for that position. The reason? A [REDACTED] who lives in Bennington has endlessly harassed her and her bi-racial family, threatened them in various ways, and generally made that family's life hell. He appears to have also enlisted the help of other [REDACTED] outside Bennington. Their home has even been broken into.

Throughout this, local law enforcement have said no laws were broken. Really? If that is true, there is something seriously deficient in our laws. If it is not true, there is something seriously deficient in our law enforcement. In either case, we have a Vermont family under attack, and the state of Vermont deprived of an effective and informed legislator. Because of a [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] friends.

If this is acceptable, we have sunk even further as a society than I had previously thought, and that is really low. Unacceptably low. I implore you to use the legitimate power of your office to: (1) investigate the entire matter to determine whether laws were broken; (2) if so, determine why they were not enforced; (3) if not, determine why our laws appear to be so entirely inadequate to protect an innocent family from endless harassment, threats and abuse by a misguided—at best--member of the public.

Do [REDACTED] now get to determine who can serve in our state's legislature? Who can marry who? Who can live where?

This is the link to a Vermont Digger story about the incidents: <https://vtdigger.org/2018/08/24/kiah-morris-withdraws-candidacy-bennington-house-race/https://vtdigger.org/2018/08/24/kiah-morris-withdraws-candidacy-bennington-house-race/>

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Representative Kiah Morris decision to withdraw from race

---

**From:** Donovan, Thomas  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 26, 2018 8:52 PM  
**To:** Clark, Charity; Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Cc:** Wemple, Doug  
**Subject:** Fwd: Representative Kiah Morris decision to withdraw from race

Discuss  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Richard Sears <[RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:RSEARS@leg.state.vt.us)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 26, 2018 7:12:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Donovan, Thomas; Stuart Hurd  
**Cc:** Brian Campion; Timothy Corcoran; Mary Morrissey  
**Subject:** Representative Kiah Morris decision to withdraw from race

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, this is a unified response from the four of us.

We were saddened and disappointed to hear of Kiah's decision to withdraw from the race in District 2-2. Be assured that the four of us and our Legislative Colleagues find the behavior of the individuals and others who have and continue to harass Kiah and her family to be reprehensible and indefensible.

We very much appreciate and share your concern for Kiah and her family. As legislators we have little power to investigate situations such as the one you describe. For that reason we are sending a copy of your email to Attorney General Thomas J. Donavan and Town Manager Stuart Hurd asking that they investigate the entire matter to determine whether laws were broken; and if so, determine why they were not enforced. With a report back as soon as practicable.

We are further requesting that the Office of Attorney General suggest any laws that could or need to be added, changed or modified and at the same time do not violate the Constitutional Right to Free Speech.

Sincerely,

Sen. Dick Sears, Sen. Brian Campion, Rep. Tim Corcoran and Rep. Marry Morrissey

Dick Sears  
State Senator, Bennington County and Wilmington  
343 Matteson Rd.  
North Bennington, VT 05257

Chair Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:12 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline

**From:** Marthage, Erica  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2018 11:58 AM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** FW: Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline

Erica A. Marthage  
Bennington County State's Attorney

[erica.marthage@vermont.gov](mailto:erica.marthage@vermont.gov)  
(802) 442-8116

**From:** Gauthier, Richard  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2018 8:47 AM  
**To:** Marthage, Erica <[Erica.Marthage@vermont.gov](mailto:Erica.Marthage@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline

Richard B. Gauthier  
Executive Director  
VT Criminal Justice Training Council  
802-483-2738 (Work)  
802-342-6310 (Cell)  
[Richard.gauthier@vermont.gov](mailto:Richard.gauthier@vermont.gov)

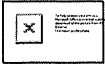
---

**From:** "NAACP Rutland (via Google Docs)" <[naacprutland@gmail.com](mailto:naacprutland@gmail.com)>  
**Reply-To:** NAACP Rutland <[naacprutland@gmail.com](mailto:naacprutland@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Friday, August 24, 2018 at 6:21 PM  
**To:** "Gauthier, Richard" <[Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov](mailto:Richard.Gauthier@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline

naacprutland@gmail.com has shared a link to the following document:



Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline



Hi Rick

It's a little late, but here is the timeline of events for the Morris/Lawton case. We did our best. Please let me know if you need anything else.

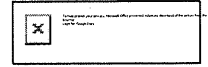
Tabitha

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:28 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Kiah Morris

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 3:40 PM  
**To:** Raymond, Matthew  
**Cc:** Farr, Amy  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Matt,

As we discussed, please hold off on examining Ms. Morris' laptop until she clarifies her position.

Bram Kranichfeld  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Division Chief, Criminal Division  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
(802) 828-5517 (phone)  
[bram.kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:bram.kranichfeld@vermont.gov)

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 11:59 AM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation  
**Attachments:** FW: Info from Rep Morris ; FW: Memo re Facebook Comments on Legislators' Pages; FW: Samples ; FW: Samples ; FW: Samples ; FW: GOP House candidate expects 1,000 at gun-rights campaign rally - VTDigger; FW: GOP House candidate expects 1,000 at gun-rights campaign rally - VTDigger; FW: Kiah Morris; FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order; FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order; FW: Representative Kiah Morris decision to withdraw from race; FW: State Rep. Kiah Morris divened from office by [REDACTED] harrasment & threats; FW: Morris Evidence; FW: Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline; FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order; FW: Message from "RNP002673A5E06A"; FW: Message from "200VMD-3-RicohMPC4502"; Kiah Morris Number

Hi Lt. Trayah,

Attached are the emails that our office has in our possession regarding the Kiah Morris investigation. One of these emails contains Kiah's phone no. Bram has spoken to her and she is aware that someone from VSP will be contacting her at some point.

Thanks for your help,

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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1. FW: Info from Rep Morris
  - Provided
2. FW: Memo re Facebook Comments ...
  - Withheld – Attorney Client Privilege/Work Product (see letter)
3. FW: Samples
  - Provided
4. FW: Samples
  - Withheld – Attorney Client Privilege (see letter)
5. FW: Samples (duplicate)
  - Provided
6. FW: GOP House Candidate ...
  - Withheld – Attorney Client Privilege (see letter)
7. FW: GOP House Candidate ...
  - Withheld – Attorney Client Privilege (see letter)
8. FW: Kiah Morris
  - Provided
9. FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order
  - Provided
10. FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order (duplicate)
  - Provided
11. FW: Representative Kiah Morris to withdraw ...
  - Provided
12. FW: State Rep. Kiah Morris driven from office ...
  - Provided
13. FW: Kiah Morris Harassment Timeline
  - Email provided
  - Timeline withheld
14. FW: Morris Evidence
  - Provided
15. FW: K. Hoyt Stalking Order (duplicate)
  - Provided
16. FW: Message from RNP002673A5E06A
  - Provided
17. FW: Message from 200MD-3-RicohMPC4502
  - Provided
18. FW: Kiah Morris Number
  - Not provided

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** JUD - Bennington Unit  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan; JUD - Bennington Unit  
**Subject:** RE: Morris v Misch 66-11-16 Bnsa  
**Attachments:** 66-11-16\_Bnsa.pdf

Hi Ulton,

Attached is the two exhibits that were admitted at the hearing.

Have a great day.

Shelly

Michele Morgan-Krall  
Vermont Superior Court  
Bennington Civil & Probate Division  
802-447-2700

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 12:39 PM  
**To:** JUD - Bennington Unit <JUD.BenningtonUnit@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Morris v Misch 66-11-16 Bnsa

Hi Shelley,

Thanks for getting back to me. If you please scan and send me the exhibits for this hearing, I'd be extremely grateful. It looks like there were just two.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 12:20 PM  
**To:** 'Kiah Morris'  
**Subject:** RE: K. Morris Additional Evidence

Hi Kiah,

Are the tweets that were admitted into evidence during the protection order hearing depicted in slides 10 and 11 from the first set of slides?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Kiah Morris <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 5:19 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: K. Morris Additional Evidence

Will do. The images were in the slides and should have been entered into court evidence as well. And he admitted that they are his.

On Tue, Nov 27, 2018 at 3:36 PM Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Kiah,

Thanks for sending that. It was very helpful. I was looking for the online communications from Max Misch from 2016, two of which provided the basis for protection order that was issued in December of 2016. Am I correct that those communications were included in the slides you just sent me?

And yes, if there are any other materials that you have in your possession that you think our office should have for our review, please forward those to me at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Ultan Doyle

On Nov 27, 2018, at 1:50 PM, Kiah Morris <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Ultan,

Here is the evidence file that has previously been submitted to the AG's office and a supplemental file of images.

[REDACTED]

It is my understanding that your office may be looking for additional postings from Misch that we may have possession of. I will need to look at some of our archived computer files to see what else we have available. Thank you!

***Kiah Morris***

- 
- 

--  
***Kiah Morris***

- 
-

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:19 PM  
**To:** Kiah Morris  
**Subject:** RE: K. Morris Additional Evidence

Hi Kiah,

Hope all is well. I was just following up to see if by chance you or your husband were able to locate that anonymous message from March of 2016 that we had talked about last week?

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Kiah Morris <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 1:50 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** K. Morris Additional Evidence

Hi Ultan,

Here is the evidence file that has previously been submitted to the AG's office and a supplemental file of images.

[REDACTED]

It is my understanding that your office may be looking for additional postings from Misch that we may have possession of. I will need to look at some of our archived computer files to see what else we have available. Thank you!

***Kiah Morris***

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:32 PM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Henry,

I hope all is well. It's my understanding that you're the lead detective in this case. Would you have some time today or tomorrow to chat with Bram Kranichfeld and me?

Thanks,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 9:31 AM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** FW: Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Henry,

Just wondering if we can connect today at 10am?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
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**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:49 PM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry <Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov>; Trayah, Reg <Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris investigation

Could we do 10 am tomorrow?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
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**From:** Alberico, Henry

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:36 PM

**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>

**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>; Trayah, Reg <[Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov](mailto:Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris investigation

Ultan,

I am the investigator in this case. I will be available for a phone tomorrow. What time are you thinking? I have copied Lt. Reg TRAYAH in this email and I know he too would like to be a part of this investigation.

Respectfully,

Henry

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:31 PM

**To:** Alberico, Henry

**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram

**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Henry,

I hope all is well. It's my understanding that you're the lead detective in this case. Would you have some time today or tomorrow to chat with Bram Kranichfeld and me?

Thanks,

*Ultan Doyle*

*Assistant Attorney General*

*Office of the Attorney General*

*109 State Street*

*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*

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communication. Also, please notify immediately via e-mail the sender that you have received the communication in error.

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:21 AM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry; Trayah, Reg  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris investigation

Yeah. 10:45 works. We'll call then

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
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**From:** Alberico, Henry  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:17 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>; Trayah, Reg <Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris investigation

Ultan ,

Lt TRAYAH is currently at headquarters and without a phone . The phone issue is being resolved as we speak. Can you call him at 1045? His phone number is [REDACTED]

Thank you  
Henry

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 9:52 AM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Cc:** Alberico, Henry; Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Lt. Trayah,

Are you able to talk to Bram Kranichfeld and me at 10 am today?

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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**From:** Alberico, Henry  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 9:49 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Trayah, Reg <[Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov](mailto:Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris investigation

Ultan,

I have copied Lt TRAYAH in the email. He would like to have a conversation with you, prior to me having any conversation in regards to this incident.

Respectfully,

Henry

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 9:31 AM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** FW: Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Henry,

Just wondering if we can connect today at 10am?

*Ultan Doyle*

Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
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**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:49 PM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>; Trayah, Reg <[Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov](mailto:Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris investigation

Could we do 10 am tomorrow?

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**From:** Alberico, Henry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:36 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram <[Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov](mailto:Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov)>; Trayah, Reg <[Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov](mailto:Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris investigation

Ultan,

I am the investigator in this case. I will be available for a phone tomorrow. What time are you thinking? I have copied Lt. Reg TRAYAH in this email and I know he too would like to be a part of this investigation.

Respectfully,

Henry

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 3:31 PM

**To:** Alberico, Henry

**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram

**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Henry,

I hope all is well. It's my understanding that you're the lead detective in this case. Would you have some time today or tomorrow to chat with Bram Kranichfeld and me?

Thanks,

*Ultan Doyle  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 12:02 PM  
**To:** Raymond, Matthew  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris laptop

Hi Matt,

Sorry to bother you about this on your vacation but I was wondering if you knew who I should follow up with at the lap regarding the status of the forensic exam of Kiah Morris' husband's laptop.

Thanks,

Ultan

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 5:03 PM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Lt. Trayah,

I hope all is well. I was just checking in with you to get an update on the investigation of this case.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018 9:14 AM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Hi Lt.,

Just checking in about last week's interviews. Can you give me a quick call when you have a moment [REDACTED]?

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris  
**Attachments:** 20181031110337971.pdf

Hi Lt. Trayah,

Assuming it's complete, I was just checking in to see if I could get a copy of the report regarding the recent investigation involving James Lawton's computer.

Also, I've attached a Bennington PD police report from Nov. of 2016. In the report, Ms. Morris says she "received threatening social attacks, cyber stalking as well as comments made to local media [from Misch]." Bennington PD never received copies of these posts. Would you mind seeing if you can have someone obtain from her the online posts that she is referencing, assuming she still has them.

Ms. Morris also references "threatening mail and calls to Democratic headquarters." Can you please have someone see if they can get copies of those threats?

Thank you,

Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2018 8:55 AM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris investigation

Sounds good. My direct line is [REDACTED]

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
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**From:** Trayah, Reg  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 9:00 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris investigation

I'll call you in the am.

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 17:02  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Lt. Trayah,

I hope all is well. I was just checking in with you to get an update on the investigation of this case.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*

*Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2018 11:59 AM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** RE: Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Lt.,

Can you give me a quick call when you have a moment.

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5585 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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**From:** Trayah, Reg  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 9:00 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris investigation

I'll call you in the am.

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 17:02  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris investigation

Hi Lt. Trayah,

I hope all is well. I was just checking in with you to get an update on the investigation of this case.

Thank you,

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General*  
*109 State Street*  
*Montpelier, VT 05609-1001*  
*(802) 828-5512 (Phone)*  
*(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Trayah, Reg  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2018 8:05 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Please call me ASAP. [REDACTED]

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018 09:14  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Hi Lt.,

Just checking in about last week's interviews. Can you give me a quick call when you have a moment? [REDACTED]

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Trayah, Reg  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 1, 2018 7:58 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Re: Kiah Morris

Our case has been sent to Captain Hill for his review. Once he's done he'll send it up to you.

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 15:06  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Cc:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Subject:** Kiah Morris

Hi Lt. Trayah,

Assuming it's complete, I was just checking in to see if I could get a copy of the report regarding the recent investigation involving James Lawton's computer.

Also, I've attached a Bennington PD police report from Nov. of 2016. In the report, Ms. Morris says she "received threatening social attacks, cyber stalking as well as comments made to local media [from Misch]." Bennington PD never received copies of these posts. Would you mind seeing if you can have someone obtain from her the online posts that she is referencing, assuming she still has them.

Ms. Morris also references "threatening mail and calls to Democratic headquarters." Can you please have someone see if they can get copies of those threats?

Thank you,

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communication. Also, please notify immediately via e-mail the sender that you have received the communication in error.

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Alberico, Henry  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:43 PM  
**To:** Jollymore, Eric; Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Ok. Thanks. Eric, can you also tell me who transported the laptop from Bennington PD to the lab?

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**From:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:09 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>; Jollymore, Eric <[Eric.Jollymore@vermont.gov](mailto:Eric.Jollymore@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Eric should have the actual dates the computer arrived , as I never had possession of them.

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---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:08 PM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry; Jollymore, Eric  
**Subject:** Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Hi Henry,

In your report regarding the changing of the username of James Lawton's laptop in July of this year, you indicate that the laptop was forwarded to the lab for analysis. Do you or Eric know when this was done?

Also, Eric, can you advise when you began your forensic analysis of the laptop?

Thanks,

Ultan

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Trayah, Reg  
**Sent:** Friday, December 28, 2018 8:55 AM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry; Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Aug 29 is the day it was assigned to my unit. No idea when this was turned over to VSP. That would be a question for Captain Hill.

Thanks.  
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---

**From:** Alberico, Henry <henry.alberico@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:53  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

I am not sure when VSP would have agreed to "taking the case." There certainly could have been a delay, prior to it being assigned to me. I will include Lt. Tray in this email and he can certainly forward it to the appropriate people, in order to get an answer to your question.

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:51 PM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry <Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Yeah. I have it and saw you were assigned the case on Aug. 29. I'm assuming though that it came to VSP before that date? Am I correct or is Aug. 29 the date that VSP took over the investigation?

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**From:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

I was assigned the investigation on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Do you have a copy of the report?

**From:** Doyle, Ultan  
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**To:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Do you know on what date VSP took over the investigation from Bennington PD?

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**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>; Jollymore, Eric <[Eric.Jollymore@vermont.gov](mailto:Eric.Jollymore@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

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Thanks,

Ultan

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## Doyle, Ultan

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**From:** Trayah, Reg  
**Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2018 11:08 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan; Alberico, Henry  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

I don't have the exact date but it was after we spoke to the juvenile and confirmed he added the "Dead Dead" to the account.

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**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2018 11:02  
**To:** Trayah, Reg; Alberico, Henry  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Can one of you tell me when Kiah and her husband were informed about the outcome of the investigation?

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**From:** Trayah, Reg <Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 28, 2018 8:55 AM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry <Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov>; Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Aug 29 is the day it was assigned to my unit. No idea when this was turned over to VSP. That would be a question for Captain Hill.

Thanks.  
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**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:53  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
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**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Yeah. I have it and saw you were assigned the case on Aug. 29. I'm assuming though that it came to VSP before that date? Am I correct or is Aug. 29 the date that VSP took over the investigation?

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Alberico, Henry  
**Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2018 12:53 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan; Trayah, Reg  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Yes,

I would say that is fair to say that Kiah's attorney was notified within that time frame .

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**From:** Doyle, Ultan <ultan.doyle@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 31, 2018 11:10 AM  
**To:** Trayah, Reg  
**Cc:** Alberico, Henry  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

That conversation with the juvenile took place on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Is it fair to say that Kiah was informed of that conversation and the outcome of the investigation within a day or two of Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>?

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**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

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**To:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>; Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>

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Thanks.

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**To:** Doyle, Ultan

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**To:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Do you know on what date VSP took over the investigation from Bennington PD?

Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)

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**From:** Alberico, Henry <[Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov](mailto:Henry.Alberico@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:09 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>; Jollymore, Eric <[Eric.Jollymore@vermont.gov](mailto:Eric.Jollymore@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Eric should have the actual dates the computer arrived , as I never had possession of them.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 27, 2018 12:08 PM  
**To:** Alberico, Henry; Jollymore, Eric  
**Subject:** Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Hi Henry,

In your report regarding the changing of the username of James Lawton's laptop in July of this year, you indicate that the laptop was forwarded to the lab for analysis. Do you or Eric know when this was done?

Also, Eric, can you advise when you began your forensic analysis of the laptop?

Thanks,

Ultan

*Ultan Doyle*

*Assistant Attorney General*

*Office of the Attorney General*

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Jollymore, Eric  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 10:17 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Correct. The reporting materials submitted by Bennington contained a screenshot of the "dead dead" login credentials. Both computers were imaged and then ultimately the focus of my attention was on the reported threat and working to sort it out.

Eric

On Jan 3, 2019, at 10:15 AM, Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Based on the "dead dead" report you had received?

*Ultan Doyle*  
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Her laptop was previewed but the focus was placed on James's laptop.

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Am I correct in saying that her laptop was not examined?

*Ultan Doyle*

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Good Morning,

Two laptops. One was said to be primarily his and one for hers.

Eric

On Jan 3, 2019, at 8:54 AM, Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Was it one or two devices that were transported to the lab?

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**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Good Afternoon,

Det. Sharshon brought the device to the lab on 8.22.2018. They were picked back up on 8.30.2018 by Major Trudeau and transported out of the lab.

The analysis was started on the same date 8.22.2018. It was halted immediately once no criminal act was discovered to have taken place. The exact termination date was not noted in the in-progress report.

Eric

On Dec 27, 2018, at 12:08 PM, Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Hi Henry,

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Kranichfeld, Bram  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 11:10 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** FW: follow-up

FYI

**From:** Hall, Glenn <Glenn.Hall@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 9, 2018 3:30 PM  
**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram <Bram.Kranichfeld@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>; Donovan, Thomas <Thomas.Donovan@vermont.gov>; Trudeau, Daniel <Daniel.Trudeau@vermont.gov>; Hill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Hill@vermont.gov>; Jonas, Ingrid <Ingrid.Jonas@vermont.gov>; Trayah, Reg <Reg.Trayah@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: follow-up

Bram,

As follow up to our conversation, I just wanted to clarify VSP's involvement with respect to complaints from Ms. Morris.

- The VSP investigation regarding the computer threat is complete and was dropped off at your office today.
- As discussed, VSP is not reviewing prior incidents that were reported to Bennington PD.
- The AGO will be reviewing prior incidents that were reported to Bennington PD. If additional follow-up is requested, the AGO will make such requests directly to Bennington PD.
- If the AGO is not satisfied with the response from Bennington PD regarding requests for follow-up then the AGO should contact VSP to discuss.
- Any future complaints, criminal or otherwise from Ms. Morris should be directed to Bennington PD assuming the complaints originated in Bennington. The VSP will not be the primary contact for complaints that occur in Bennington's jurisdiction.

I was made aware today that Lt. Trayah contacted Robert Appel in response to the below e-mail in order to clarify VSP's role. Lt. Trayah has been given direction consistent with the above points. I'm hoping you can clarify with Robert Appel our message so that he is receiving consistent information from both VSP and the AGO. As always, feel free to call me for further discussion or if you have a specific request of VSP. Thanks.

Glenn

Major Glenn E. Hall  
Criminal Division Commander  
Vermont State Police  
45 State Drive  
Waterbury, VT 05671

(802)241-5491  
Please note new e-mail address:  
[Glenn.Hall@vermont.gov](mailto:Glenn.Hall@vermont.gov)

**From:** Jonas, Ingrid

**Sent:** Thursday, November 8, 2018 10:13 AM

**To:** Birmingham, Matthew <[Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov](mailto:Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov)>; Hall, Glenn <[Glenn.Hall@vermont.gov](mailto:Glenn.Hall@vermont.gov)>; Merrigan, John <[John.Merrigan@vermont.gov](mailto:John.Merrigan@vermont.gov)>; Trudeau, Daniel <[Daniel.Trudeau@vermont.gov](mailto:Daniel.Trudeau@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: follow-up

---

**From:** Robert Appel Attorney at Law <[robert@robertappellaw.com](mailto:robert@robertappellaw.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 8, 2018 10:03 AM

**To:** Kranichfeld, Bram

**Cc:** Jonas, Ingrid; Kiah Morris; James Lawton; Donovan, Thomas; Trayah, Reg

**Subject:** follow-up

Bram-

Thanks for your call yesterday and our conversation of this morning. I write to confirm my understanding of where things presently sit.

You indicated that VSP is continuing to review prior incidents that were reported to the Bennington Police Department (BPD) to determine if there may be grounds for prosecution against any individual.

Given the strained relationship between Kiah and James and the BPD, you agreed that further incidents against the Morris/Lawton family be reported to VSP. Presumably the VSP contact person will continue to be Sgt. Henry Alberico unless and until otherwise directed by Lt. Trayah.

Please let me know ASAP if I misconstrued anything that was said. Thanks again to VSP and to your office for the diligence and commitment shown in efforts to protect this family from further trauma.

Sincerely-

Robert

Robert Appel, Attorney at Law, PLC

30 Main St., Suite 350

Burlington, VT 05401

Tel: (802) 595-1544

Fax: (802) 881-0379

[robert@robertappellaw.com](mailto:robert@robertappellaw.com)

[www.robertappellaw.com](http://www.robertappellaw.com)

**"A man can't ride your back unless it is bent."**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

On 11/7/2018 4:08 PM, Robert Appel Attorney at Law wrote:

Ingrid-

I'm glad that we had the opportunity to talk this afternoon about the situation that Kiah and her family are presently facing trying to maintain their personal safety and security.

I am clear that the VSP was called by the AG's Office (AGO) to investigate ONLY the on-line death threats that were received by the family. When we first met on 9/6 (before James was taken to the [REDACTED], Lt. Trayah was quite clear in stating the limited scope of the VSP's investigation. When we returned and met with Tpr. Eric Jollymore and Sgt. Henry Alberico on 10/3 for their investigative interviews of Kiah and James, Lt. Trayah reiterated the limited scope of VSP's investigation as directed by the AGO.

The behaviors of Max Misch reported by my client are quite disturbing and very frightening. However, as I explained to Kiah below, only a prosecutor can apply for an extreme risk protection order. Individuals having legal standing to pursue a stalking prevention order, BUT NOT an extreme risk protection order.

As we discussed this afternoon, I am copying both TJ and Bram Kranichfeld, Chief of the AGO's Criminal Division, on this email. Further, I have invited Kiah to reach out to the AGO on this matter given that she has little if any faith in her local police agency and the state's attorney.

I would be happy to facilitate the flow of information on [REDACTED] to the AGO should that be required. However, simply googling [REDACTED] will give one a flavor of why my clients are so anxious about this man walking around Bennington armed and making both open and veiled threats against persons of color, including my clients.

See: [REDACTED]

See also: [REDACTED]

By copy of this letter, I am asking that the AGO consider asking VSP to broaden its investigation of the harassment that Kiah and her family continue to suffer on a on-going basis.

Thanks again for your time this afternoon.

Sincerely-

Robert

Robert Appel, Attorney at Law, PLC  
30 Main St., Suite 350  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Tel: (802) 595-1544  
Fax: (802) 881-0379  
[robert@robertappellaw.com](mailto:robert@robertappellaw.com)  
[www.robertappellaw.com](http://www.robertappellaw.com)

**"A man can't ride your back unless it is bent."**

## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Robert Appel Attorney at Law <robert@robertappellaw.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 2:17 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Cc:** Kiah Morris  
**Subject:** Re: your request re Max Misch 2016 social media posts--Power Point file perhaps containing posts

Ultan-

[REDACTED] I am no longer representing Kiah Morris or her husband, James Lawton. Please feel free to contact Kiah directly at the email address above and via phone at [REDACTED] Kiah has committed to provide whatever assistance that you may require to continue your most welcomed review of prior reported incidents.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely-

Robert

Robert Appel, Attorney at Law, PLC  
30 Main St., Suite 350  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Tel: (802) 595-1544  
Fax: (802) 881-0379  
[robert@robertappellaw.com](mailto:robert@robertappellaw.com)  
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**"A man can't ride your back unless it is bent."**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

On 11/27/2018 11:13 AM, Robert Appel Attorney at Law wrote:

Mine is failing to open as well. I'll reach back out to the source to see if I can get a functional file to forward to you.

Robert Appel, Attorney at Law, PLC  
30 Main St., Suite 350  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Tel: (802) 595-1544  
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**"A man can't ride your back unless it is bent."**

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On 11/27/2018 10:53 AM, Doyle, Ultan wrote:

Hi Robert,

I'm not able to open the Google Drive file for some reason. Can you send me those materials in a different format?



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Assistant Attorney General  
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**From:** Robert Appel Attorney at Law <[robert@robertappellaw.com](mailto:robert@robertappellaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 10:48 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kiah Morris <[kiahmorris@gmail.com](mailto:kiahmorris@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** your request re Max Misch 2016 social media posts

Ultan-

Although you likely already have these, I am attaching what I have in my files that may be responsive to your request. I also left Kiah a message asking her to forward any other documents that you may be seeking.

Sincerely-

Robert

--

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## Doyle, Ultan

---

**From:** Jollymore, Eric  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 9:48 AM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Re: Case no. 18B302863 - James Lawton laptop analysis

Good Morning AAG Doyle,

Thank you for reaching out. I reviewed the statements. They make sense and I believe they are an accurate summary.

Eric

On Jan 4, 2019, at 4:20 PM, Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Hi Eric,

I am compiling a report on this investigation. Would mind reviewing the paragraphs below to make sure they accurately summarize what occurred? I realize you may not have been present for the Oct. 10 interview, but can you just confirm that I have accurately captured the issue that led to the username being changed.

Thanks,

Ultan

1. On August 22, 2018, Officer Sharshon transported the two computers to the Vermont Forensic Laboratory. VSP Detective Jollymore stopped working on other forensic examinations in order to immediately start the forensic examination of Mr. Lawton's computer — the one reported to have had "dead dead" replace Mr. Lawton's user name. That analysis continued for several weeks and revealed that the username on the computer was associated with a Microsoft Live Account and an Outlook account of an unknown user.
2. On October 3, 2018, VSP Detective Henry Alberico and Det. Jollymore traveled to Bennington to conduct an in-person interview of Ms. Morris and Mr. Lawton,<sup>[1]</sup> who were accompanied by legal counsel. During the course of the interview, it was revealed that the laptop computer with the "dead dead" user name had recently been purchased by Mr. Lawton from a local resident.
3. On October 10, 2018, Det. Alberico interviewed the person from whom Mr. Lawton had purchased the laptop. During the interview, Det. Alberico learned that this person's 10-year-old son's screenname when he played online video games on his Xbox was "dead dead" and this screenname, which was associated with his mother's Microsoft cloud account, continued to be synced with Mr. Lawton's laptop after he had purchased it.
4. It was this accidental synchronization that led the username on Mr. Lawton's laptop to appear as "dead dead." In other words, the VSP investigation established that the laptop incident did not involve any form of threat or unlawful activity.

*Ultan Doyle*  
*Assistant Attorney General*

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Good Afternoon,

Det. Sharshon brought the device to the lab on 8.22.2018. They were picked back up on 8.30.2018 by Major Trudeau and transported out of the lab.

The analysis was started on the same date 8.22.2018. It was halted immediately once no criminal act was discovered to have taken place. The exact termination date was not noted in the in-progress report.

Eric

On Dec 27, 2018, at 12:08 PM, Doyle, Ultan <[ultan.doyle@vermont.gov](mailto:ultan.doyle@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Hi Henry,

In your report regarding the changing of the username of James Lawton's laptop in July of this year, you indicate that the laptop was forwarded to the lab for analysis. Do you or Eric know when this was done?

Also, Eric, can you advise when you began your forensic analysis of the laptop?

Thanks,

Ultan

*Ultan Doyle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512 (Phone)  
(802) 828-2154 (Fax)*

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<sup>121</sup> The interview had originally been scheduled for September 6, 2018 but had to be rescheduled because Mr. Lawton was experiencing [REDACTED]

## Doyle, Ultan

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**From:** Scherr, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 3:56 PM  
**To:** Doyle, Ultan  
**Subject:** Text messages for Bennington Banner PRR  
**Attachments:** file-1.jpeg

Hi Ultan,

I have transcribed relevant texts below. I may still have been overly inclusive, feel free to leave out what you feel is irrelevant. The final text message from me arguably pertains to an ongoing case—I'll let you make the call on that.

From Kiah Morris, 12/20/18, 12:45pm: Hey David, FYI, I will be sending an email to you TJ and Bram about something troubling I heard on the findings regarding Bennington Police. They DID NOT ask for passwords until the day before my husband went to the station. Bram never asked the passwords, not once. I intentionally stalled on responding to the request for them until I could get confirmation from Bram that he did not request them. Doucette is crowing about that they were cleared of wrongdoing.


From Kiah Morris, 12/20/18, 3:13pm: <https://www.facebook.com/497664730364786/posts/1446066075524642/>

From David Scherr, 12/20/18, 4:07 pm: Hi Kiah, thank you very much for the info. I'll make sure TJ and Bram have read your email and frame these facts and the timeline correctly.

From Kiah Morris, 12/20/18, 4:14pm: Thank you. And the video link I sent above was kinda chilling. Like holy crap! What on earth did they find???

From Kiah Morris, 1/11/19, 6:42pm: Ugh. This is the kind of shit we will be dealing with. He posted a bunch of crap online too. Wonder where he is getting this info.

From Kiah Morris, 1/11/19, 6:44pm: [See attached image file].

From Kiah Morris, 1/11/19, 7:03pm: 

15 mins

KIAH MORRIS UPDATE

Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan will hold a press conference Monday morning to reveal facts and findings in the case of former state representative Kiah Morris. From what I understand the truth won't be pretty for Kiah and her husband James.

State computer forensics experts investigated one of the family's laptops - - to the chagrin of James - - and the word will be that Kiah did not receive death threats as she has claimed in one media outlet after another ... telling the world that she quit her gig as 2-term state rep because of the repeated death threats. From what I understand, Kiah was told in October that the death threats were not real ... so why did she spend months perpetuating the falsehood which in turn gave Bennington and the state a bad name?

The press conference starts at 11 o'clock in front of Temple Beth El on North Street.

From David Scherr, 1/11/19, 7:10pm: Thank you for sharing this. We'll make sure our folks are aware. I have no idea where he would be hearing anything. Obviously feel free to call us anytime. It may be best just not to engage with this stuff.



From Kiah Morris, 1/11/19, 7:11pm: I am not. I sent a private message to the poster saying that a detailed timeline would be provided at the conference.

From David Scherr, 1/11/19, 7:12pm: Ok gotcha, sounds good

From Kiah Morris, 1/11/19, 7:13pm: But this particular guy is trouble for sure.

From David Scherr, 1/11/19, 7:15pm: We'll pass this along so people are aware

David Scherr  
Assistant Attorney General  
Co-Chief, Community Justice Division  
W: 802-828-3189

[david.scherr@vermont.gov](mailto:david.scherr@vermont.gov)

Did someone hack your FB.

Your account is posting some crazy stuff on Politics of Bennington.

6:27 PM ✓

Indeed, facts can be crazy sometimes. Can you confirm if it was October 12 or 13 when you were told there were no threats against you?

6:37 PM



Start a message



**From:** [Boyce, Bonnie](#)  
**To:** [mdavis@vpr.org](mailto:mdavis@vpr.org); [Keays, Alan](#)  
**Subject:** Public Records Response  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 2:29:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [2019-03-15 Gray ltr to Keays and Davis.pdf](#)  
[2019-03-15 Gray Response to Keays and Davis .pdf](#)

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Hi Mr. Davis and Mr. Keays,

Attached you will find our response to your request.

Best,  
Bonnie

Bonnie Boyce  
AGO Records Officer  
Legal Assistant III  
Criminal Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-1001  
(802) 828-5512  
[www.ago.vermont.gov](http://www.ago.vermont.gov)

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THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.  
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<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

STATE OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
109 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05609-1001

March 15, 2019

Mr. Mark Davis  
Vermont Public Radio  
365 Troy Avenue  
Colchester, Vermont 05446

Mr. Alan J. Keays  
VTDigger  
26 State Street, Suite 8  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Mark Davis, Dear Alan Keays,

Please find attached the electronic documents requested as part of your public records request. It is our understanding that although Vermont Public Radio provided payment for these documents, the documents will be shared between you.

Separately, it is also our understanding that payment for the audio/video files will be provided by VTDigger and these files will also be shared between you. We are separately working to review these files and to make them available.

With minimal exception, the electronic documents include the totality of documents relevant to your request. As previously stated, Max Misch was arraigned on criminal charges which are currently pending. Consistent with 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(A)(ii), because some documentation contains information that could deprive Max Misch of his right to a fair trial, we are obliged, at this stage, to exempt this information from disclosure. Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3) disclosure could also violate duly adopted Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct. Additionally, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(A)(iii) some information has been redacted in order to protect against a possible unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we have worked to meet your request and abide by our obligations under the Vermont Public Records Act.

To the extent you feel records have been wrongfully withheld, you may appeal to Deputy Attorney General Josh Diamond at the address noted above.

Sincerely,

/s/

Molly R. Gray  
Assistant Attorney General

Electronically Transmitted

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
VERMONT STATE POLICE**

**CASE NUMBER:** 18B302863

**OFFICER:** Detective Sergeant Alberico

**INCIDENT/STATUTE VIOLATION:**

**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT:**

**LOCATION OF INCIDENT:** [REDACTED] Bennington, VT

**CASE OFFICER:** Detective Sergeant Henry Alberico

**SUSPECT/ACCUSED:**

**VICTIM(S):** Ruqaiyah Morris [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Bennington, VT

James Lawton [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Bennington, VT

**LIST OF POLICE WITNESSES:**

Detective Sergeant Henry Alberico (Vermont State Police)  
Detective Trooper Eric Jollymore (Vermont State Police)  
Chief Paul Doucette (Bennington Police Department)  
Officer Michael Sharshon (Bennington Police Department)

**WITNESSES:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**LIST OF EXHIBITS:**

(2) Investigative Action Reports

**NARRATIVE:**

On August 29, 2018, I was assigned a "special investigation" and was provided with documents from an investigation that was conducted by the Bennington Police Department. It should be noted that all of Bennington Police Department's documents will be included with this case for review.

I learned that Ruqaiyah Morris [REDACTED] and her husband James Lawton [REDACTED] had filed a complaint with the Bennington Police Department on July 27, 2018 (Bennington PD Case #18BN05584). Lawton had spoke with Officer Michael Sharshon (Bennington Police Department) in regards to issues he and his wife (Morris) were having with someone he referred to as a "local neo-nazi." The individual was identified as Max Misch [REDACTED] and was said to be causing issues for Morris and Lawton online.

Through further discussion Officer Sharshon learned that Mish had been targeting Morris on social media (Facebook & Twitter) and making unpleasant comments. Print outs of the comments being referred to by Lawton are included with this case, however, the conversations do not appear to be in their entirety.

Lawton then stated that he had signed onto his computer and discovered that the "sign on name" had been changed. Lawton explained that this sign on name typically shows "James Lawton" however, when he signed on he found it to say "dead dead."

During Lawton's conversation with Officer Sharshon, he explained that Morris was currently in legislative session (Morris is a VT representative) and she had been speaking with the Vermont State Police (VSP). Lawton informed Sharshon that he believed VSP would take the computer and asked if he should bring it to the Bennington Police Department and Sharshon informed him, "no." Officer Sharshon directed Lawton to speak with Morris and inquire about what VSP wanted done with the computer.

On July 30, 2018, Officer Sharshon learned that Lawton had brought his computer to the Bennington Policc Department. Officer Sharson contacted Detective Trooper Eric Jollymore (VSP TIU) and documented in his report that "...that situation that Lawton encounter is possible, however, it would require whoever did it to have an advanced degree of technical knowledge of computers. It was determined that the computers would not be forensically analyzed."