

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

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Main

Originating Case #:
Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289
Report #: S1
Report Type: Initial
Status: Approved
Date Written: 07/29/2016
Division: Texas Rangers
Region/Company: F
District:
Area:

Lead Investigator: Robert P Pena - RP10773
Immediate Supervisor: JAMIE DOWNS - JD10382
Investigation Supervisor: CHANCE COLLINS - CC07701
Admin Review:
Program: PROGRAM NOT LISTED
Activity Type: Investigative
Activity Date: 12/01/2015
Other Activity:

Title:
Attempted Bribery - McLennan County - Benedict Raymond Matus

Synopsis:

On 06/06/2016, I, Texas Ranger Patrick Pena, was requested to investigate McLennan County Commissioner Will Jones for an Attempted Bribery allegation.

Legacy Reference:

Other Information (Migrated from legacy system):

Details

- 1.1 On 06/06/2016, I, Texas Ranger Patrick Pena, was advised by Texas Ranger Lieutenant Jamie Downs that the McLennan County District Attorney's Office had requested the Texas Rangers investigate McLennan County Commissioner Will Jones. Commissioner Jones attempted to bribe Benedict Raymond Matus during the election for McLennan County Commissioner of Precinct 3 held on 03/01/2016.
- 1.2 I was informed Matus had completed the proper paperwork as well as paid the \$1,250.00 filing fee which made him a candidate for McLennan County Commissioner of Precinct 3.
- 1.3 I was given a copy of a Facebook post that was anonymously mailed to the District Attorney's Office. This copy of the Facebook post is retained in my case file. This Facebook post was shown to have been posted by "Will Jones", and the profile picture is of Commissioner Jones shaking hands with Governor Greg Abbott. The following was posted verbatim on Facebook on 01/08/2016:

"I offered to refund Benny's filing fee because I thought it was the right thing to do. His only platform was that the seat has always been from West. He chose not to accept and that's fine. I have no problem running for re-election on my record of providing essential services to our citizens, protecting taxpayers, and securing our safety and quality of life today and for future generations. That's what I promised I would do, and my record shows that I have followed through on those promises."
- 1.4 On 06/13/2016, I met with Matus at my office located at 102 Texas Ranger Trail, Waco, Texas

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76706. I audio recorded my contact with Matus, and this audio recording is retained in my case file. Matus provided me with a copy of his application that made him a candidate for the 03/01/2016 County Commissioner election. This application also documented Matus paid his required filing fee of \$1,250.00. This application was dated 11/19/2015. This copy of the application is retained in my case file.
- 1.5 Matus also provided me with a recorded telephone call between himself and Commissioner Jones that occurred on 12/01/2015. According to Matus, this recorded conversation was the first time he had ever spoken to Commissioner Jones, and this was the phone call where Commissioner Jones first offered to refund Matus' filing fee if he withdrew his name from the ballot. A digital copy of this recorded phone call is retained in my case file.
- 1.6 I will summarize the recorded phone call between Matus and Commissioner Jones. The following summary does not contain all comments, nor does it necessarily reflect the chronology of the discussion. The digital recording contains a verbatim account of the conversation in its entirety.
- 1.7 Summary: Commissioner Jones called Matus, and they briefly discussed their election views. Commissioner Jones then told Matus the following, "I'll refund your money. My wife and I have talked about this. If you want out we will refund your money."
- 1.8 Matus gave me consent to look through his cell phone. I determined Matus' cell phone number to be (254) 855-3794, and he had a contact saved in his phone as "Will Jones" with phone number (254) 722-2152. I confirmed Commissioner Jones called Matus on 12/01/2015 at 7:38 AM and the call duration was approximately eight (8) minutes and nine (9) seconds. I also observed a text message Commissioner Jones sent Matus on 12/15/2015 at 7:07 AM. This text message stated, "You can still withdraw your name today. My offer still stands."
- 1.9 I took photographs on the call history and the text message from Matus' cell phone. These digital photographs are retained in my case file.
- Matus left my office, and I ended this audio recording at approximately 5:07 PM.
- 1.10 On 07/06/2016 at approximately 10:09 AM, I met with and interviewed Commissioner Jones at his office located at 215 North 5th Street, Suite 125, Waco, Texas. I will summarize the interview with Commissioner Jones. The following summary does not contain all comments made during the interview, nor does it necessarily reflect the chronology of the discussion. The digital audio recording contains a verbatim account of the interview.
- 1.11 Summary: I informed Commissioner Jones about the Attempted Bribery allegation against him. He stated he knew Matus had completed an application and paid his filing fee to enter the election. He made a comment about there being a time period where one can get out of an election, but not get the filing fee back. He stated his wife and him discussed it and decided to offer Matus his filing fee back if he would not run.

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1.12 Summary continued: Commissioner Jones explained his conversation he had with Matus on 12/01/2015. He admitted he told Matus to "go quietly", and in return, he would pay Matus' filing fee back to him. Commissioner Jones knew Matus was his only opponent in the election, and if Matus withdrew his name, then he would run unopposed. **Commissioner Jones admitted he did not want to spend money on a campaign, and that's why he was trying to get Matus to withdraw his name from the election.**

1.13 Summary concluded: I showed Commissioner Jones the copy of the Facebook post. He admitted he typed the post, and it was from his personal Facebook page. He stated he stood behind that post "100%." I also showed him a picture of the text message he sent Matus on 12/15/2015 at 7:07 AM. He read the text message, and he admitted he sent Matus the text message.

I ended this interview at approximately 10:28 AM.

1.14 This investigation will continue.

Activity Location

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

Location Name:

Street: 215 North 5th Street, Suite 125

City: Waco

County: McLennan

Country: US - United States of America (USA)

Zip Code: 76701-____

State: Texas

Mile Mark:

Location Description:

Personnel

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-5000

Name: Robert P Pena - RP10773

Type: Lead Investigator

ID #: 10773

Agency/Service: Texas Dept of Public Safety

Assign Date: 07/29/2016

End Date:

Division: Texas Rangers

Region/Company: F

Distict:

Area:

Email: patrick.pena@dps.texas.gov

Phone: 254 754
2303

Address:

Supervisor: JAMIE DOWNS - JD10382

Involved Persons

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

Involved Vehicle

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

Involved Location

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

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Involved Business

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

Attachments

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

Attachment Name(s):

File Link(s):

Offense

Originating Invest #: 2016I-TRF-50005289

Victim is a Person: Y

Victim is a Business:

Victim is State of TX:

Code: 51990018

Offense: BRIBERY

Citation: 36.02

Statute: PC

Level/Degree: F2

Non TX / Local Offense:

Federal Offense:

Other Statute:

Offense Description:

City: Waco

County: McLennan

State: Texas

Country: US - United States of America (USA)

Offense Date: 12/01/2015

Charges Filed Date:

Charge Court:

Cause / Complaint #:

Charge Judge:

Status Date: 07/29/2016

Status: Chargeable