

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF St. Joseph) SS:

IN THE _____ COURT _____
DIVISION, ROOM _____

Aisha Anance)
Petitioner)

- FILED -

vs.)

AUG 18 2021

Clifton French)

Clerk
St. Joseph Circuit Court No. 71C01-2108-70-000677

Respondent

Address:

PETITION FOR CONTEMPT

I am the Petitioner in this case and understand that by signing this PETITION FOR CONTEMPT I am responsible for the truth of what is written on this paper, and further understand that the information stated on this paper is under oath and that if any part of what I say is not true I can be prosecuted for the crime of perjury. What is said on this paper is based upon what I myself saw or heard. If there is information that I did not see or hear, I have attached statement(s) signed under oath by the person(s) who saw or heard what happened.

I believe that Respondent was aware of the protective order issued in this case on 08/12/2021 and that Respondent has violated the order by doing the following: [state exactly what respondent did and where it happened, including the date and time, attach additional pages if needed]:

Clifton French continues to harass me by way of Facebook.
And his blog Real News Michiana (RNM).
He has written two articles in which he claims I falsely
alleged a protection order against him, among other false
statements.

See attached articles after being served.

I request the Court order the Respondent to appear before the Court and to show why the Respondent should not be found in contempt of the Court's order for Protection and all other just relief. I affirm under the penalties for perjury the above information is true.

DATE: 08/18/2021

Asha Anand
Signature

Printed: Asha Anand

(Address)

227 W Jefferson St.
Suite 400
South Bend IN 46601

APPROVED

AG

(Phone)

574-303-8602

Public Official Lies To Get Protective Order Against RNM, Activist Judge Signs off

By Clifton French August 17, 2021

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*Aisha Avance, Democrat Deputy, St. Joseph County Voter Registration
Photo: Facebook*

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A public official at the St. Joseph County Voter Registration Office lied to a judge to get a protective order against REAL News Michiana reporter Clifton French. RNM is currently investigating potential fraud with the use of tax dollars. One of the subjects of the case works at the voter registration office.

RNM was not going to name the official since our investigation is still ongoing. However, since she filed the fictitious and frivolous paperwork for a protective order, RNM has decided to name the subject of the investigation.

On August 10th, at 10:54am, RNM approached the voter registration office to speak with Aisha Avance, a Democrat employee of the office. Video and audio of the entire interaction is below. Conversations at the office last about a minute and a half.



0:00 / 1:53

RNM published a story about the incident three days later, you can read that story here.

In the grammatically error ridden protective order, Avance claims RNM's Clifton French "CAME TO PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT STATING HE WANTED TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT AN UNKOWN PERSON TO ME(AFTER I ASKED HIM 5MONTHS NOT TO KEEP CONTACTING ME). WAS ASKED SEVERAL TIMES TO LEAVE AND HE REFUSED TO LEAVEE MY JOB. WHEN I ASKED HIM TO STOP HARASSINGME ESPECIALLY AFTER A FALSE ARTICLE WRITTEN ABOUT ME BY HIM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HE STILL REMAINED AT MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. THE HARASSMENT IS UNMANTED AND IS CAUSING ME A DELY IN DOING MY JOB DUTIES."

As you can tell in the audio, as soon as RNM is asked to leave, we do, contradicting the false claims made by Avance. Avance never asked RNM's Clifton French to leave the public office. Instead it appears she asked Democrat Board Member Muhammad Shabazz to do so on her behalf.

Avance also claims "HE POSTED ME BY WAY OF PHOTO ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH A FAKE STORY....AFTER I TOLD HIM STOP CONTACTING ME."

Avance seems to be referring to a story published by RNM on March 15th, 2021. The story links Avance to a scandal involving nude photos circulating of the recently deceased. The story is factual with documents to prove what was reported. Her claims that the story is fake are false and deceptive. You can read that story here.

In another claim, Avance writes "HE CALLED HE ASKINGME ABOUT NUDE PHOTO'S OF DECEASE HOMICIDE VICTIMS TOLD AN THING DEALING WITH PHOTOS ARE CONSENTED AND CONFIDENTIAL AT THAT TIME I ALSO ASK HIM TO STOP CONTACTING ME BY PHONE, SOCIAL MEDIA OR IN PERSON."

RNM also recorded that conversation. Avance told the reporter to not call her work phone. There was no mention of visiting the office, contacting her via social media or in person.

Avance is a public employee who is subject to public scrutiny since she is paid with tax dollars. Avance and her non-profit, CHOICES for Life South Bend, also received thousands of taxpayer dollars via a city grant to help reduce gun violence. RNM is currently investigating potential fraud and criminal activities being committed by multiple grant awardees.

It appears Avance is attempting to manipulate the legal system through false statements to prevent RNM from conducting its good-faith investigation.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

The Judge who signed the order is Andre Gammage, who ran for St. Joseph County Probate Judge as a Democrat. Gammage's decision appears to be political in nature.

Indiana Statute 34-26-5-2 addresses the standard one needs to meet in order to obtain such an order.

A person who is or has been subjected to harassment may file a petition for an order for protection against a person who has committed repeated acts of harassment against the petitioner. (if)

(A) person who has committed stalking under IC 35-45-10-5 or a sex offense under IC 35-42-4 against the child;

Stalking is defined under in Indiana code as:

(b) The offense is a Level 5 felony if at least one (1) of the following applies:

(1) A person:

(A) stalks a victim; and

(B) makes an explicit or an implicit threat with the intent to place the victim in reasonable fear of:

(i) sexual battery (as defined in IC 35-42-4-8);

(ii) serious bodily injury; or

(iii) death.

There are no allegations of threats of violence, sexual battery or bodily injury in any the protective order, which you can read for yourself below.

protective-order Download

Even if Avance's allegations were true, the judge should not have granted this order and instead is infringing on the first amendment rights of a journalist and impairing the public's ability to find out the truth regarding potential crimes being committed using taxpayer dollars.

The order has now effectively prevented RNM from reporting on any city and county business by preventing our journalist from visiting the County-City building.

RNM is immediately seeking to have the protective order overturned.

RNM is also seeking an investigation into Judge Gammage through **IC 33-33-71-50**, which allows *any citizen of Indiana may complain to the commission on judicial qualifications with reference to the activities, fitness, or qualifications of any judge of the St. Joseph superior court.*

RNM is exploring options to seek monetary damages caused by the erroneous report and subsequent protective order, preventing RNM from providing content to its readers.

It is RNM's opinion that officials within the St. Joseph County government and the government of the City of South Bend are using whatever avenues they can to prevent a free press from uncovering potential crimes being committed within their ranks.

RNM will not be intimidated.

Voter Registration Dem.
Board Chair Kicks RNM Out
of Public Area While
Investigating Potential Fraud
August 13, 2021
In "News"

UPDATE: "Somebody should
have fired her." Auditor
responds to Ind. Young
Dems President's
"inaccurate" timecards as
county employee
February 10, 2021
In "Crime"

ANOTHER non-profit linked
to nude funeral home
pictures. City also awarded it
\$7,000 grant.
March 15, 2021
In "Investigations"

HR: County Employee Viewed, Shared Naked Photos of Dead Citizens. Journalists Not Allowed to Ask Questions.

By Clifton French August 18, 2021

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Aisha Avance, Democrat Deputy of St. Joseph County Voter Registration
Photo: Facebook

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A Human Resources complaint filed by REAL News Michiana against employees of the St. Joseph County Voter Registration Office has been swept under the rug by the director of Human Resources, Kimberly Karkiewicz.

The complaint stemmed from an incident in which RNM approached the Voter Registration office to question Democrat Deputy Aisha Avance about potential crimes and fraud with the use of tax dollars. Her boss, Democrat Board Member, Muhammad Shabazz (who is currently being sued for sexual harassment in the office) promptly kicked RNM's reporter out of the public space. You can read more about that here.

RNM called into the human resources department and filed a complaint over the phone and received the following email from Karkiewicz.

Mr. French,

A complaint was brought to my office regarding your visit to St Joseph County Voter Registration Department morning of Tuesday August 10, 2021.

There was no request made to the Department Board Members or Human Resource Department from you to request interviewing of county employee.

The County offices and employees are here to help the community with county business. Your visit to the Voter Registration Office on this day was not to conduct county business.

Your visit was to approach a county worker during work hours to investigate a story not conducting St Joseph County business. This should not have been done.

In future you need to conduct your investigation outside of the employees place of employment not disrupting department and employees.

Proper channels for request for public information is available on sjcindiana.com I have provided the links in this email for your ease of use if you are needing information.

Once again, public officials are lying about the purpose of the visit, which was investigating the use of tax dollars in the office of voter registration and its employees, much like the erroneous protective order filed by Avance against RNM reporter Clifton French.

INVESTIGATION BACKGROUND

RNM has been investigating potential fraud and criminal acts linked to recipients of South Bend's Alive Grant, which was designed to help fund community organizations that were working to stop violent crime.

The first investigation involved Justice for Michiana, of which Avance was listed as the President. That investigation uncovered a disturbing story in which members of Justice for Michiana, specifically activist Vernado Malone, were taking nude photos of homicide victims at a local funeral home, then sharing those photos with members of the public. Those photos were being viewed and shared at the voter registration office. Below is a statement from a former employee of the voter registration office.

"(Malone was at the voter registration office) bragging about how he was able to get this guy (recently deceased) put back together again and nobody else in the area could." Trisha Carrico, who saw photos of two deceased people on Malone's cell phone, said.

Carrico, who was working in the St. Joseph County Voter Registration office at the time, says Malone came up to the office in the fall of last year to visit Avance to discuss Justice for Michiana business.

"He said to me while he was talking to (Avance), 'You couldn't handle seeing this photo.'" Carrico said. "He was talking about a man who killed himself... this man was really badly decayed."

Carrico says Malone then showed her two photos. One before the victim's body was worked on, the other one was after.

"It was graphic. In the first picture he was laying on a table... there really wasn't a whole lot left of him." She said. "In the second picture he was all dressed up, the funeral home had pretty much put the man back together again."

Employee viewed, Shared Naked Photos of Dead Citizens. Journalists Not Allowed to Ask Questions. | REAL News Michiana

Carrico says Malone then asked Avance if he should show her more pictures.

"He said, 'Hey, should I show her a picture of that guy?'" Carrico said. "(Avance) said 'Oh Lord.' Then he was sliding through his phone and showed me another guy." Carrico explained.

"It was a full nude picture, shot from his feet up. He was laying on top of a sheet. He had been shot in the head." She said.

RNM later learned that Avance was the founder of another organization and Alive Grant awardee, CHOICES for Life South Bend. Since two Alive Grant recipients were now connected to the nude photograph scandal, RNM wrote another story.

RNM is currently investigating more potential fraud and crimes involving Alive Grant awardees and Avance's potential involvement.

RNM RESPONSE TO HR

Due to the overwhelming evidence of Avance working on the Alive Grant business while working at the voter registration office, RNM sent a response to Human Resources Director Kim Karkiewicz on August 13th.

Request,

Was Vernado Malone ever kicked out of the voter registration office when he was sharing nude photographs of the recently deceased? He has admitted to doing so. I feel that would be more distracting than asking a public employee about public dollars in a public venue.

Malone and Avance have admitted to working on Alive Grant duties while in the office. I was there to discuss those matters and associated fraud.

Employees in the office have consistently been proven to be doing other things than work related to their VR duties.

It seems the rules you are citing are enforced in an extremely bias manner and I am being singled out for political views or other issues based on characteristics outside of my control.

A call to discuss the complaint would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Clifton French

RNM has not received a response from Karkiewicz or her office.

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Voter Registration Dem.
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Investigating Potential Fraud
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harassment targets St.
Joseph County Dem. Chair
February 27, 2021
In "Investigations"

Public Official Lies To Get
Protective Order Against
RNM, Activist Judge Signs off
August 17, 2021
In "Crime"