

David B. Wheeler
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Via Email

September 17, 2022

Undersheriff Colt Cornelius
Garfield County Sheriff's Office
107 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

RE: Sheriff Lou Vallario Professional Standards Investigation Request

Dear Undersheriff Cornelius:

I'm writing to request a professional standards investigation into Sheriff Lou Vallario.

Based upon information I received in a CORA request, I learned Vallario violated my civil rights, constitutional rights, and his own office's professional standards by using his office for political reasons.

For example, he passed along a false police report from Mr. Jay Misany of the Lauren Boebert for Congress campaign to his officers with a notation that I was a "loon". (See attachment 1.) The report by Misany was false and was never investigated. However, Vallario treated the police report by Misany as true and forwarded Garfield County Sheriff patrol officers with no probable cause or official purpose.

In addition, the Sheriff uses official office resources for political purposes. For example, the Sheriff admitted he used his office to record a "robo call" endorsing Lauren Boebert's campaign for Congress. (See attachment 2 and 3.)

In addition, Vallario contacted the Rifle Police Department Chief of Police inquiring about my actions in front of Boebert's Shooters Grill without probable cause, and with reason other than reporting back to Boebert. (See attachment 4.)

I also allege there are many internal emails, text messages, and other communications requested under CORA that have been withheld or improperly redacted at the direction of Vallario. For example, Vallario states the Boebert has contacted him about a incident on August 4, 2022, but there were no responsive documents in the CORA documents.

I do not believe your department can investigate my allegations against Vallario without bias or retaliation by Vallario against the investigators. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting that my complaint be referred to an independent investigative agency outside your department or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

I am available for a phone, video, or in person interview. I'll look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



David B. Wheeler

Kiyvon Nye

From: Lou Vallario <LVallario@garcosheriff.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Sheriff Patrol
Subject: Boebert Extra Patrol

Attached is a link to the guy Congresswoman Boebert is suing for defamation. He's alleged that she's a call girl and a meth addict, and those are the nice things!

If possible, she would appreciate a little extra patrol in her neighborhood. He is a loon!!

Thanks!

<https://twitter.com/fireboebert/status/1538609975076851712?s=10&t=Yw8dYavzPZ3noc9krTCPIQ>

Lou Vallario
Garfield County Sheriff
Lvallario@garcosheriff.com
970-945-0453
www.garcosheriff.com

Kiyvon Nye

From: Lou Vallario <LVallario@garcosheriff.com>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Lou Vallario
Subject: FW: Phone

Hi, this is Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario calling on behalf of Lauren Boebert for Congress. Make no mistake, Lauren Boebert is the only candidate in the Republican primary supporting law enforcement. I strongly encourage you to vote for Lauren Boebert and get your ballot turned in today.

Don Coram, Lauren's opponent, is downright awful when it comes to law enforcement. Coram decriminalized the extremely dangerous drug fentanyl. Coram gave illegal immigrants driver's licenses. And Coram said he wants the courts to make sure illegal immigrants stay right here unpunished. Even worse, Coram voted to unleash lawsuits against police officers.

Enough's enough. My team of Deputies needs to know our community has their backs.

I'm Sheriff Lou Vallario. Join me in voting for Congresswoman Lauren Boebert and get your ballot turned back in today. Paid for by Lauren Boebert for Congress. 970.316.0157

Lou Vallario
Garfield County Sheriff
LVallario@garcosheriff.com
970-945-0453
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PAC asks feds to investigate Garfield County, Rep. Boebert corruption allegations

PAC FILES COMPLAINT WITH FEDS

- ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION
- EMAILS FROM PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUEST
- TRO STAFF WANTED FILED ON PAC PRESIDENT
- JUDGE DISMISSED



By [Cyndy Koures](#)

Published: Sep. 6, 2022 at 3:52 PM EDT | Updated: Sep. 6, 2022 at 5:22 PM EDT



GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. (KKCO) - The American Muckrakers PAC fired off a letter asking the U.S. Department of Justice and the Denver office of the FBI check out allegations of corruption in Garfield County, CO.

The request focuses on the relationship between Rep. Lauren Boebert (R) and Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario. The complaint consists of 42 pages and is based on a series of emails the PAC says it received after filing a Colorado Open Records Act request.

Many of the emails are focused on a temporary restraining order Boebert's Chief of Staff requested the sheriff's office serve on the President of the PAC, David Wheeler.

Boebert's office accused Wheeler of threatening and stalking her. A judge granted a temporary TRO but Wheeler says he was never served the court documents. The judge dismissed the case at a later hearing.

""The same organization that filed these complaints was proven in a CNN fact check to have lied about Congresswoman Boebert multiple times and a judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order against one of the organization's staff. Congresswoman Boebert is focused on reducing inflation, increasing domestic energy production, and firing Nancy Pelosi. These false allegations will not distract her," stated a spokesperson for Representative Boebert

The email chain shows Vallario supports Boebert and has even used his taxpayer owned email account to campaign for her. The Secretary of State confirmed it received a complaint from the American Muckrakers PAC alleging Vallario has used his official resources for political purposes.

We asked for Vallario's response to the complaint. We are including it here unedited:

mature.

I question how any of this pertains to “campaign finance” issues since I have not accepted nor spent any campaign funds in 12 years, having run unopposed for the previous two elections as well as the current one.

What I can comment on is the following:

1. We have a civil department that serves papers. We do not “hire” additional Deputies. This is just one of many that we process as routine workload. This particular service would require a fee and mileage assessment to be paid by the requestor (Boebert), per the established Sheriff’s fees in statute.
2. Our SWAT team (AHRT) provides several functions and dignitary protection / assist local agencies is one of them. The team is multi-jurisdictional and comprised of members from several agencies. I would not have access to their payroll records.
3. Additional patrols are commonly requested from residents for a variety of things from traffic concerns to criminal activity in their neighborhood. We routinely support these requests as manpower and workload allow.
4. I did not use my taxpayer owned equipment for campaigning purposes. The email in question was a script of a robo call I did for the Congresswoman that I received via text and copied and pasted to my email so I could read it when I recorded it. Contrary to Wheeler’s suggestion that I sent this out, I only sent it to myself.

Regardless, there is case law from the Colorado Supreme Court (see attached) where (I’m paraphrasing) an elected official was using his government devices to send personal and public messages. The court ruled that the devise used does not matter if it’s used for personal correspondence, no different than using the phone on my desk to make a personal call. It further ruled that personal material remains personal and cannot be released under a records request whereas public information including budgetary and operational issues of the Office are public information and subject to disclosure.

— Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario

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Kiyvon Nye

From: Lou Vallario <LVallario@garcosheriff.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Debra Funston
Subject: Re: Boebert Protest

I think we're on the same page.

Lou Vallario
Garfield County Sheriff
Lvallario@garcosheriff.com
970-945-0453
www.garcosheriff.com

Be safe and stay healthy!

> On Jun 21, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Debra Funston <dfunston@rifleco.org> wrote:

>

> I was not made aware of any threats. I did not hear about it either, which tells me it was not a big event. It is my understanding that Wheeler is upset with Boebert and maybe going to sell "FIRE Boebert" t-shirts in front of Shooters. I'm not sure what the expectation is - they have a right to protest as long as they are not interfering with traffic and pedestrians coming and going in that area.

>

> Let me know if we need to talk.

>

> Deb

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lou Vallario [mailto:LVallario@garcosheriff.com]

> Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 10:26 AM

> To: Debra Funston

> Subject: Boebert Protest

>

> Hi Debra,

>

> How did the Wheeler protest in front of Shooters go yesterday? I didn't hear anything about it,

>

> Let me know. Thanks.

>

> Lou Vallario

> Garfield County Sheriff

> Lvallario@garcosheriff.com

> 970-945-0453

Kiyvon Nye

From: Lou Vallario <LVallario@garcosheriff.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Walter Stowe
Cc: Kurt Conrad; Kiyvon Nye
Subject: Re: domestic dispute? Denver Post E
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png

So now I'm getting questions from Lauren about why her name is on the report?

Can someone provide me with a copy of our report, ASAP so I can confirm these questions and compare to what the reporter has.

Lou Vallario
Garfield County Sheriff
Lvallario@garcosheriff.com
970-945-0453
www.garcosheriff.com

Be safe and stay healthy!

On Aug 9, 2022, at 12:07 PM, Walter Stowe <wstowe@garcosheriff.com> wrote:

Sirs,

He is trying to confirm that something that was sent to him via a third party that he claims has our logo on it. See the message he sent to me below:

Mr. Stowe,

>

> Just following up. Someone passed this incident report to me and I
> wanted to send it your way to make sure it was genuine. Can you
> confirm that this is the report filed from GCSO? And then I'd still
> like to see if there are any other documents not included that you
> could send my way.

>

> Looks like there were both threats, property damage and the mention of
> the congresswoman involved with the incident. Are you or anybody else
> available today to discuss how the issue was resolved?

I have referred him to our records department on two occasions, and even told him this was a neighborhood dispute that was resolved before law enforcement was on scene. I just spoke to him on the phone for the second time this morning and let him know that we could not confirm