

Niagara County Sheriff's Dept, et al.

- An officer was sent to my mother's residence, which she shares with my brother, sister and her children on the same day (02-15-19) Judge DeLabio granted Peter Diarbakerly SOLE custody of both children. Officer, Nick Faso rang the door bell and pounded on the door incessantly in the dark hours of the evening without identifying himself or the reason he was there. My totally disabled mother was home alone and petrified. My mother called me crying, her voice was noticeably trembling. She was absolutely stunned by the terrorization of this officer and his unprofessional and inappropriate behavior in her quiet suburban neighborhood.
- I called the Niagara County Sheriff's Dept, seeking further information into why and how my brother was arrested. Officer Nick Faso returned my phone call and from the start, I heard a combative tone from him. He started interrogating me about my sister Katie's whereabouts. Mr. Faso stated to me two separate times during our conversation that "Peter is in town and he's coming to your house". I asked him how he had knowledge of this and why he would share this information with me. Additionally, I asked why he told me this in a deliberately assertive way. I could only surmise that it was Mr. Faso's intention to instill fear in me. And, if I didn't cooperate, there would be consequences from my sister's abuser.
- It is my true belief that my brother was arrested because he did NOT give Officer Faso the information that he was seeking. Furthermore, by arresting my brother, Mr. Faso gained access to my brother's cell phone and car. (Please see Kevin Riford's account of his encounter with Mr. Faso and his subsequent arrest attached).
- Three Niagara County Sheriff's officers in three separate cars came each and every time to my mother's house to interrogate my family about my sister's whereabouts. At times, there were unmarked cars, parked in front of the neighbor's house and they would ring the door bell and stand in the corner of the porch to be out of plain sight when the door was opened by my brother.
- Please see the video on the provided flash drive, where five men (4 NCS officers and 1 US Marshall) show up on my mother's porch to intimidate and instill fear in my family. There were several days, where multiple attempts were made on the same day by three or more officers and detectives each time and every time.
- It took a total of nineteen days to arraign my brother on a completely false charge by Mr. Faso. What happened to my brother's right to a speedy trial? The officer neglected to

supply a supporting deposition, which my brother had previously requested. The original court date was oddly canceled for everyone that evening. A sign was posted on the main doors of the Wheatfield courthouse with no reason as to why court was canceled and with no advance notification given to any of the individuals who were summoned there that evening.

- Judge Stenkowski filled Judge DeLabio's previously held position as Wheatfield Town Justice when she took over as Lockport Family Court Judge in January 2018. Judge Stenkowski made a few odd comments to my brother during the arraignment, such as "You might want to hire an attorney, instead of acting as your own". Please keep in mind that the ticket was for a violation equivalent to a parking ticket, NOT a misdemeanor or felony.
- Please note that all of my family members are law abiding US citizens with no criminal record. There was absolutely no reason for an outrageously harsh response by these various officers and investigators other than to repeatedly and intentionally harass my family.
- If my sister committed a crime and if NCS Dept is being truthful that they actually do have an arrest warrant for my sister, Katie, then why haven't they issued an 'Amber Alert'? If they are genuinely concerned about sister's welfare and that of her children, then why wouldn't they seek the media and public's assistance in finding her? The NCS Dept utilizes private social networks, such as Nextdoor and Facebook to post suspicious activities and missing persons, etc. I've been following regularly and have NOT seen any posts regarding my sister and her children.
- Although I am extremely grateful for Brian Burn's (a FBI agent from the Buffalo field office) help in calling the SCJC directly regarding my sister's case, I can't help but feel that he could have done more. I do know that when an out-of-state resident crosses state lines to threaten, harass, and stalk, it is considered a federal crime. My family and I went to him several times to explain our situation and to seek a federal order of protection.
- Mr. Burns, my brother, sister and I had countless meetings regarding various aspects of my sister's case. Each time, I would leave dazed and confused as to how Mr. Burns could NOT find anything criminal in this situation. His area of expertise is public corruption and his only response a majority of the time was "This is just so bizarre" and "It's not what you know, it's what you can prove".
- My brother, sister and I spoke to and filed reports with countless persons from numerous agencies, including, but not limited to the FBI (Buffalo Field Office); Erie County

Sheriff's Department (Domestic Violence Unit); the Niagara County Sheriff's Dept., the Amherst Police Dept.; the Cheektowaga Police Dept.; the Buffalo Police Dept.; the Family Justice Center (Erie County); the Family Violence and Women's Rights Law Clinic (Judith Olin, Esq.). After reviewing all of our information/evidence, NOT one person offered to HELP my sister and her children - NO order of protection granted, even as a temporary measure; NO legal counsel/aid protecting a domestic violence victim and her two young children; NO criminal/CPS investigations properly and thoroughly conducted. NOT one person felt morally and ethically compelled to help my sister and her children!!!

- I knew we were in trouble when I went to a prominent and experienced family law firm, which came highly recommended by a family friend. I decided I would seek non-parent custody of my niece and nephew until the SCJC concluded its findings and a possible criminal investigation could be launched to look more deeply into this matter and their response after hearing the facts of the case and the players involved resulted in a, "Sorry, we can't help you at this time". It was at this very moment when my heart and the world as I knew it, SHATTERED into a million pieces. I can't even HELP my own sister fight this BEAST she is up against!!!

I did find it interesting that during my consultation, the lawyer asked me which therapeutic center was utilized for hosting supervised visits with the biological father and children. I quickly noted that the Diarbakerly family secretly and privately hired and paid an 'unlicensed social worker' who is a family friend to supervise visits and write blatantly bias and defamatory reports about my sister.

The lawyer seemed shocked that the court would allow a man who required supervision to roam freely around town with two children even if accompanied by a "supervisor/social worker". I stated that it was my sister's desire and specific request from the beginning for the utilization of a monitored therapeutic setting to ensure her children's safety and possibly promote the establishment of a bond between the children and their father.

KEVIN RIFORD'S ACCOUNT

On February 15th, 2019, I was at my sister's house in Kenmore, NY, getting ready to watch a UB bulls basketball game with my brother-in-law in the evening. About 10 minutes after arriving, I received a frantic phone call from my mother who was at home, roughly 30 minutes away. It was a call like I've never heard from anyone in my life, let alone my mother. She told me someone is knocking on the door very hard and they won't stop in the most terrified voice I have ever heard from my mom. I told her to hide in a safe spot and I would call the police and be there as soon as I could. I hopped in my car and called the police. The police dispatcher asked me what my emergency and where was the emergency. They then transferred me to another dispatcher, I am assuming the town where me and my mom reside, in Wheatfield. The second dispatcher then asked what my emergency was, and I stated the above previously described. The police dispatcher then asked who I was. Initially I wanted to remain anonymous, but then I believe I gave my name, at which time he told me it was a police officer at our residence. The phone call ended, and I headed in the direction of my home. I was in front of Wegmans, on the Niagara Falls Blvd, located in Amherst, NY and received a phone call from a local area number, 716-438-3450. Not knowing who it was I picked up the phone. They asked me if I was Katie's brother. I stated I would not identify myself, until I knew who it was. They then told me they were with the sheriff's department and he was at my house in a irritated and rude voice. He asked me why I did not answer the door if I was inside, again in an irritated voice. I responded I was not even home and that he shouldn't be making false accusations. He told me I needed to meet him at my residence, which I then stated I was at Colton RV, on the Niagara Falls Blvd, approximately 4 minutes from my house and I would meet there. I told him I didn't want a scene at the house. He told me that I don't call the shots in a loud voice, and then proceeded to hang up on me. I headed home and came around the corner where his car was running with visible exhaust vapor coming up with the rear lights lit up on his car. He then proceeded to drive away from the front of my house. I thought it would be a good idea to try to talk from him from his cruiser, away from the house, preferably down the street. I had followed him for roughly 4 minutes, at which point we both ended up on Kruger road, a two-lane road, with traffic going both ways. At this point he was ahead of me in the right lane, headed back towards the direction of my house, at which time he makes an abrupt U-turn, and is now facing my car. I roll down my window and wave my hand at his cruiser, at which time his window comes down with his cruisers spot light blinding my face. I stated I was Kevin Riford and asked him if he waned to talk. The officer then stated only if you want to cooperate this time. I drove up to a stop sign at Mavis and took a left down the road and pulled immediately to the right side. He followed me and then turned his cruisers light bar on, which flashed blue, red, and white light. He proceeds to get out of the car and came up the window. I had one of my hands on the steering wheel and the other visible resting on the door with the window fully down. I asked him what was going on, which he stated vengefully, Delabio gave Peter full custody today. I then stated we already knew that was going to happen. He seemed a little shocked at my response, perhaps even irritated. He then asked me where Katie was. I told him I did not know, and that she went into hiding. He told me lying was a crime. I stated it said she went into hiding on the papers I served to two attorneys earlier in the day. He asked me, which attorneys did I serve and what did I serve them. I told him, that I served both Jason Cafarella and Randy Margulis's law office both affidavits. During this conversation, he continued to look into my car with his flashlight from the outside of the vehicle. I told him I didn't have any rocket launcher, guns, or knives inside. He continued to ask me questions, at which point I noticed at least one, possibly two police officers come to the right side of my vehicle, with flash lights now looking into the inside of my car, as the officer who was questioning me already did. At this point I start to feel uncomfortable and ask the officer if I am being detained, or free to go. I noticed he

looked over to officer to his right and his lips trembled in disbelief that I had just asked that. He stated I was being detained. I asked for what and he could not give me an answer. I asked him a second time and received the same response. I then told him I would like a lawyer, at which point he asked me to call my attorney. I stated to him, there was no attorney I could call this late in the evening. He then proceeded to walk away from my car and went to talk to one of the officers behind my vehicle. I rolled up the window and called my sister to explain the situation. He came back quickly and started to knock on my rolled-up window at which point I told my sister I needed to go, and I rolled my window down. I then asked for the third time, if I was being detained or if I was free to go. He stated I was being detained, however, this time when I asked for what, he said for harassment, and that I was following him in a public place. He asked me why I was following him. I stated that he had called me on my cell phone to talk to me, he was in front of my house and I decided to talk to him, which he replied I should have called the non-emergency number if I wanted to talk to him. He stated he saw that I've called the non-emergency number before, so I should know how to do that. I asked him if he was serious, and he told me to get out of my car, which I did. He told me to put my hands behind my back, which I again did. When I had my hands behind my back and my wrists together to get cuffed, he then placed his hands on my wrist and told me to stop resisting, even though no such resisting had occurred. I was relaxed as a cucumber, as I knew I had committed no crime nor violation. I am sure his dash camera and body camera will show this. He then placed me in the back of his patrol car and got in the front of his vehicle. I asked him what I needed to do to not be arrested, which he stated it was too late. I was unsure of what it was too late for, as I did nothing wrong. Soon after, he told me that Peter Diarbakerly was going to go over my sisters house Christina. I wasn't sure what to make of this, and to be honest I was shocked and scared for my sister and brother in laws safety. I then asked him if I could have my cell phone from my vehicle that was in my cup holder and he stated he didn't know where it was, even though I had just told him. My car was left running with the keys in the ignition and cell phone inside. He said my car was going to be towed, and he took me to the holding station. On the way to the station I feared for my safety, as he was the only one in the patrol car. He told me I was well dressed and had great communication skills. He stated that I watch too many police YouTube videos, which I stated I do not watch YouTube, but have taken some law classes. He also asked the question, why are you even involved in this, it has nothing to do with you. I was perplexed and why he would say I had great communication skills, yet I was in handcuffs. Fearing for my safety, I tried to make small talk with him in the car. I asked him if he had wife and kids, at which point he said he did. Quickly after his statement, he said well I did. I asked him what happened, which he replied they died in a car crash. At this point I felt like my sister and brother in laws safety was in danger, however, I could not do anything. I was charged a \$100 bail fee at jail the same night and had to pay close to \$300 in towing fees the next day to get my car back. All-in-all I was charged \$400 for wanting to talk to the police officer who CALLED MY PHONE asking to talk to me in person. My rights were never read to me, or even implied to me. I have no doubt in my mind this was a personal arrest, done through Ms. Delabio for my family having her under Judicial review. I had no intention of alarming, harassing or annoying the officer. He was the one who called me. Not the other way around. I have nothing to hide, and would like all police video footage to be released. I have a feeling the video will be found to not have been running constantly, and parts omitted.

**Wheatfield Town Court
2800 Church Rd.
North Tonawanda, New York 14120**

Gary E Strenkoski
Town Justice

(716) 694-6793

February 21, 2019

Kevin M. Riford
3038 Michael Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

People of the State of New York versus:

Kevin M. Riford
3038 Michael Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Case No: 19025052

DOB: 11/30/1989

<u>TicketNo.</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Statute/Section</u>	<u>Charge Text</u>
	Faso, Nicholas	PL 240.26 02	HARASSMENT 2ND

Next Date: 03/05/2019 Time: 06:00PM

Court was not in session on 2/19/19 therefore, your court appearance has been re-scheduled to the above date and time.

Respectfully,



Cathleen Donner
Clerk of the Court

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NIAGARATOWN

COURT

TOWNof WHEATFIELDDefendant: NA

(Relationship to alleged victim)

Alleged Victim: NA

(Relationship to defendant)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-- VS. --

Date of Birth

KEVIN M RIFORD11/30/1989

Defendant(s)

BE IT KNOWN THAT, by this INFORMATION, NICHOLAS J FASOas the Complainant herein, STATIONED at NIAGARA CO. SHERIFFaccuses the above mentioned Defendant(s), with having COMMITTED the VIOLATIONof HARASSMENT-2ND:FOLLOW PERSON in violation of Section 240.26Subdivision 02 of the PENAL Law of the State of New York.That on or about 2/15/2019 at about 08:47 PMin the TOWN of WHEATFIELD, County of NIAGARA, the defendant(s)

did intentionally, knowingly and unlawfully commit the violation of HARASSMENT-2ND:FOLLOW PERSON. A person is guilty of harassment in the second degree when, with intent to harass, annoy or alarm another person:2. He or she follows a person in or about a public place or places;Subdivisions two and three of this section shall not apply to activities regulated by the national labor relations act, as amended, the railway labor act, as amended, or the federal employment labor management act, as amended.Harassment in the second degree is a violation.

Said defendant knowingly intentionally and unlawfully followed this deputy in a public place with the intent to harass, annoy or otherwise alarm.

The above allegations of fact are made by the Complainant herein on DIRECT KNOWLEDGE

WHEREAS, an Appearance Ticket was issued to the said Defendant, directing him to appear before this court at 06:00 PM on FEBRUARY 19, 2019

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the State of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor. (PL 210.45)

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 15TH day of FEBRUARY, 2019

--OR--

Subscribes and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

COMPLAINANT -

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REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER

I hereby represent that I am unable to pay an attorney for their services, either in whole or in part, and, therefore, request the Office of the Public Defender/Assigned Counsel to represent me. It is understood that I will complete the attached application and return it to Niagara County Office of the Public Defender to determine my eligibility.

NAME: Kevin Rifercl (Defendant) DATE: 3/5/19

CHARGES: §40.20

JUSTICE COURT: Wheatfield

NEXT COURT DATE: 3/19/19 TIME: 6pm

BAIL: _____ POSTED BY WHOM: _____

TOWN JUSTICE: Gary E. Strenkowski (Signature)

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER/ASSIGNED COUNSEL REPRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

You must complete PART I of the **ATTACHED Application for Assignment of Counsel under County Law, Article 18-B** and return it to the Office of the Public Defender. There are **four** ways to have the application reviewed for eligibility if you are **not in jail**. You may:

1. **Apply in person at the LOCKPORT location** at 139 Niagara Street, Lockport, New York, on **TUESDAYS at 8:30 a.m.** Applications are taken on a first-come/first-served basis. An attorney will be available for screening and questions.
2. **Drop off** the application at the **LOCKPORT location** at 139 Niagara Street, Lockport, New York, on **TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, or THURSDAYS** between **2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.** An attorney will not be available for questions.
3. **Call** (716) 286-4706 for an **APPOINTMENT** to **drop off** the application at the **NIAGARA FALLS location** at the Niagara Falls Municipal Complex, 1925 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York.
4. **Mail** completed application to:
Niagara County Public Defender
Niagara County Courthouse
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

If you are in the Niagara County Jail, you must call the Public Defender's Office at (716) 439-7071 to have your name put on the jail list so a public defender can visit you to pick up your application. If you are released from jail before having the opportunity to turn your application in to the visiting public defender, you must apply using one of the four methods listed above.

All eligible applicants must **notify** the Public Defender's office **immediately** at (716) 439-7071 of any **change in address and/or phone number**.

Failure to do so may result in a bench warrant if the office is unable to notify you of court dates.

If you have any questions, please call the Niagara County Public Defender's Office at (716) 439-7071.

694-6793
V & T

GARY E. STRENKOSKI
Wheatfield Town Justice

PL

2800 Church Road
North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120

Name: 26000

Adjourned to: 3/19/19

Time 6 pm

Today's Date: 3/13/19

Fine \$

CONFIDENTIAL

State of New York

County of NIAGARA

Date: _____

Screened by: _____

Application for Assignment of Counsel under County Law, Article 18-B

PART I

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of financial dependents in household: _____

Last four digits of Social Security No.: _____

CURRENT CASE INFORMATION

Arrest Date: _____ Arraignment Date: _____

Docket No. (if available): _____

Name of Court: _____

Judge: _____

Charges: _____

Co-Defendants (If any): _____

Next Scheduled Court Date: _____

Were you born in the United States? Circle one: Yes No

EMPLOYMENT

Occupation (if a student, indicate the school attending; if self-employed, indicate and describe the nature of employment):

Name and address of Current Employer: _____

ELIGIBILITY

Based on the information in the previous section (seriousness of the offense[s], income and expense information, etc.), will this applicant be able to afford the cost of counsel indicated above? Yes _____ No _____

What is the cost of retaining private counsel in your county for the offense the applicant is being charged with? _____

Is the applicant eligible for assigned counsel? Yes _____ No _____

If answering no, state why: _____

×

Nicholas J Faso *ARRESTING OFFICER*

Age 20s

Monitor

on

off

Current addresses

8436 3rd Ave Niagara Falls NY 14304-1886

7619 Sunnydale Dr Niagara Falls NY 14304-1382

Previous Locations

Hamburg, NY

Family & relatives

Maria J Faso

Maria F Faso

Rand T Labend

Caitlin R Connors

William L McGinnis

James J Faso Jr.

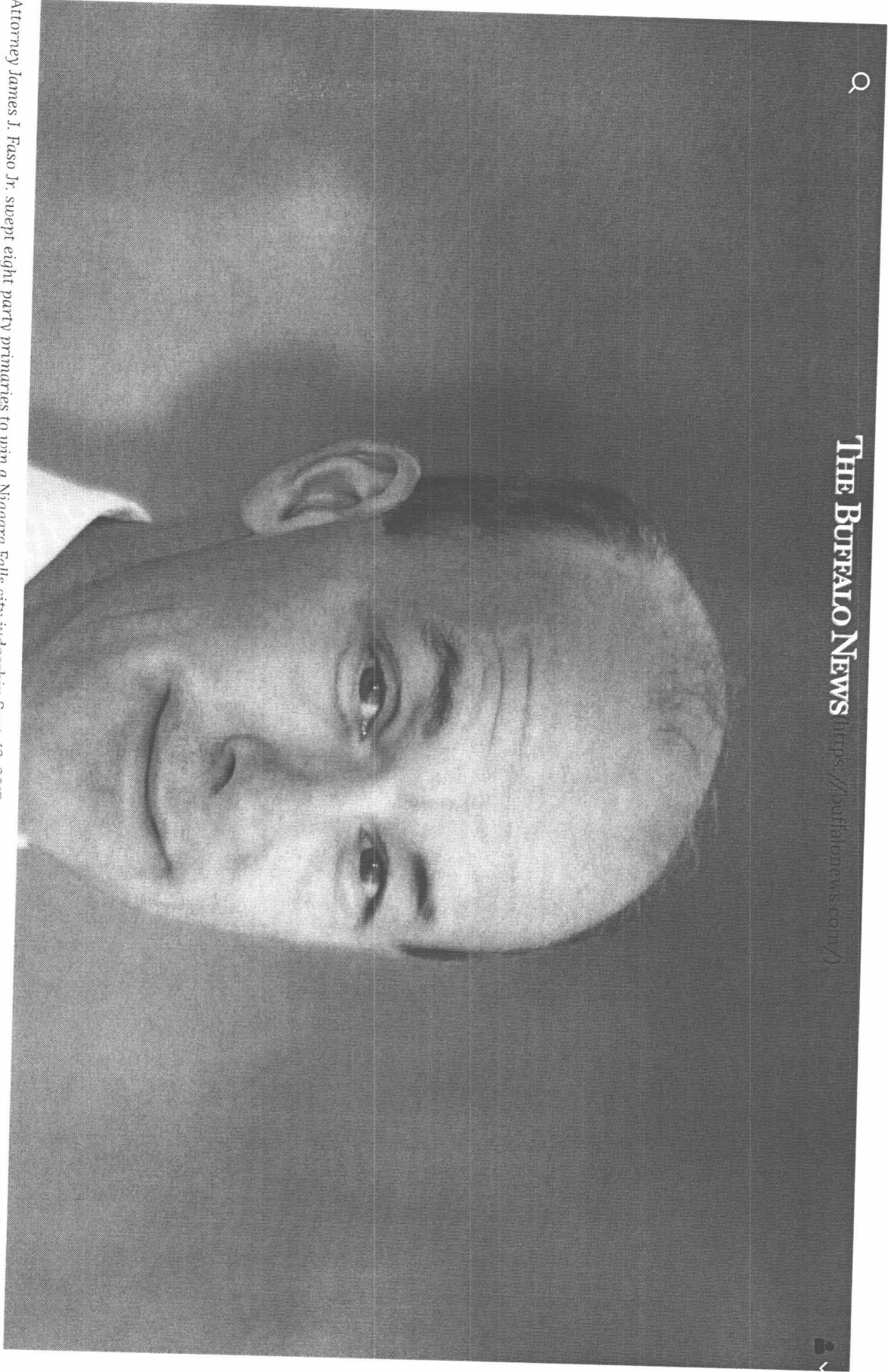
James Joseph Faso Sr.

Deborah A Faso

Marisa A Faso

** ← Elected Niagara Falls City Court Judge
at same time Erin DeLabio was
elected Lockport Family Court
Judge. (Niagara County)*

© 2019 Whitepages



Attorney James J. Faso Jr. swept eight party primaries to win a Niagara Falls city judgeship Sept. 13, 2017.

Faso, DeLabio win judgeships in Niagara County primaries

By **Thomas J. Prohaska** (<https://buffalonews.com/authors/thomas-prohaska/>) | <https://buffalonews.com/2017/09/12/faso-delabio-win-judgeships-niagara-county-primaries> September 13, 2017

SHARE([HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER.PHP](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php))

TWEET([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/NTENT/TWEET](https://twitter.com/ntent/tweet))



Niagara Falls voters gave attorney James J. Faso Jr. a City Court judgeship Tuesday, while winnowing a field of nine City Council hopefuls to six.

Meanwhile, voters across Niagara County chose Wheatfield Town Justice Erin P. Delabio as the next county Family Court judge. Like Faso, Delabio won every contested primary.

Falls City Court

Faso, a defense attorney with one of the largest caseloads in the area, ran well ahead of two other attorneys, Alan J. Roscetti and Nicholas A. Pelosino Jr., in the Democratic and Republican contests.

Faso also posted victories in the Conservative, Green, Working Families, Independence, Women's Equality and Reform party contests.

After an unopposed victory in November, Faso will take the seat of Judge Robert P. Merino, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 this year.

"It feels really good. We worked hard. My wife and I walked 6,000 doors since May 9," Faso said. "I helped a lot of people in my practice over the years. I'll work to help them in a different way. I'm ready for the challenge."

Falls City Council

Democratic incumbents Kristen M. Grandinetti and Andrew P. Touma survived a five-way primary and will be on the ballot for three available seats in November.

Touma finished first, William D. Kennedy II was second and Grandinetti was third in the Democratic primary. Amber S. Hill-Donhauser ran fourth and Lakea A. Perry fifth.

"What gives me an edge is the work I've done in the last 3 1/2 years, the work ethic and the integrity I've shown," Touma said. "You have to earn your votes, and I believe I've done that."

Touma said the biggest issues facing the city are financial problems, stemming in large part from the cutoff of Seneca Niagara Casino revenue, as well as public safety and quality of life.

Robert D. Pascoal, president of the Landlords Association of Greater Niagara, was the top Republican vote-getter. Samuel F.





Buffalo News
e 1995. A graduate of
Central High School, 1994 St. Bonaventure University, he previously worked at WIVL Radio in Lockport.
(https://s3.amazonaws.com/bncore/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Kristen-Grandinetti.jpg)

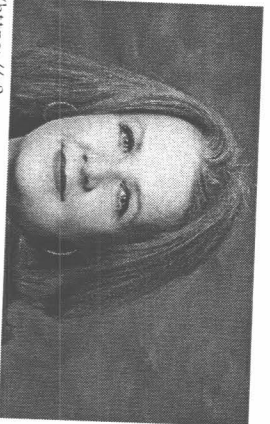
Connie Ann Kristen M. Grandinetti (Buffalo News file photo)

Queens College.

Archie ran second, two votes ahead of former Niagara Gazette publisher John F. Batt, Delabio won the Democratic, Republican and six minor-party races over Lockport attorney Patrick M. Balkin.

Pascoal said his top priority if elected will be to seek ways to reduce poverty and crime in the Falls. "Just because people don't make a lot of money doesn't mean they have to live in a neighborhood that's unsafe," he said.

Family Court



(https://s3.amazonaws.com/bncore/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Erin-P.-Delabio-color.jpg)

Justice Erin P. Delabio

In the race to succeed retiring Judge John F. Batt, Delabio won the Democratic, Republican and six minor-party races over Lockport attorney Patrick M. Balkin.

In addition to serving as town justice in Wheatfield, Delabio has been confidential law clerk to Family Court Judge Kathleen Wojtaszek-Garano since 2012. She earned her undergraduate degree at SUNY Buffalo State and earned a law degree at

There are no comments – be the first to comment



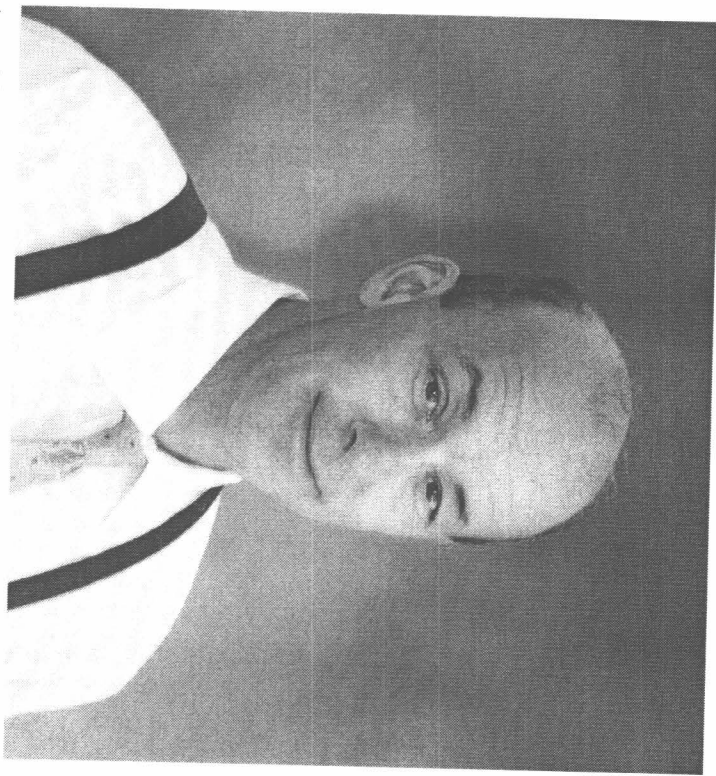
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https://www.niagara-gazette.com/news/local_news/local-attorney-faso-announces-candidacy-for-city-court-judge/article_ae4cb953-3313-5a85-828b-14077a15627d.html

Local attorney Faso announces candidacy for city court judge

POLITICS: Local Democrat has maintained private law practice in the city for more than 20 years.

Staff reports | Jan 4, 2017



James J. Faso



Niagara Falls attorney James J. Faso has announced his candidacy for Niagara Falls City Court Judge.

Faso is seeking the seat currently held by Judge Robert P. Merino, who will be reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70 during this year.

Faso has maintained a private law practice in Niagara Falls for more than 20 years, with the focus of his practice being criminal defense.

"Having handled thousands of cases in city court for the past 20 years, I am in city court virtually every day," Faso said. "This has given me the opportunity to work with court staff and understand how the court functions."

In addition to his private practice, Faso is a member of the Niagara County Conflicts Office which represents indigent clients with his primary assignment being Niagara Falls City Court.

"Between my private practice caseload and assignment in the conflicts office, I believe that I bring a unique understanding of the issues that come before the court and thus allows me to hit the ground running upon being elected as your next city court judge," Faso said.

In addition to Faso's extensive practice in city court, the veteran defense attorney practices throughout Niagara and Erie County including major felony trial work in County Court.

"With your help, Niagara Falls can expect a dedicated, hard-working judge that will be fair yet firm, understanding the needs of our community," Faso said.

A graduate of Niagara University and the University of Toledo College of Law, Faso is a member of the Niagara County Bar Association and is also a member and general counsel for the Niagara County Police and Judges Association. A Democrat, Faso plans to run in the Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families Party primaries.

Faso lives in Niagara Falls with his wife, Valerie, a teacher at Niagara Falls High School, and their two daughters. He is the son of town of Niagara Justice James J. Faso Sr.

"Our community recognizes the importance of having members of the legal

community serving in our court system that have the experience and maturity to handle the cases presented, I am ready to do that work immediately," Faso said.

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March Paints & Crafts

Village of Lewiston

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(VIOLATION)

ENTERTAINMENT AROUND WNY SPOTLIGHT REAL ESTATE FIND IT FISH FRY CONTEST

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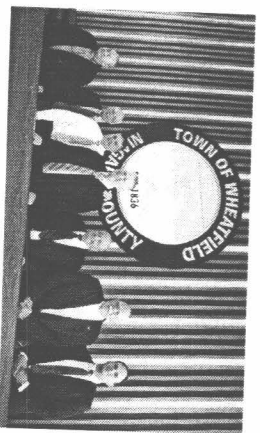
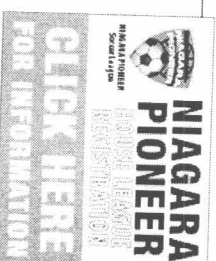
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58°

Strenkoski sworn in as town justice in Wheatfield

Fri, Jan 5th 2018 03:10 pm



On New Year's Day, Gary Strenkoski was sworn in as the Town of Wheatfield's town justice.

In November, Strenkoski received 3,527 votes from Wheatfield residents, successfully clinching the win for the position. Prior to winning, Strenkoski said he was running for the position "Because I believe in serving the community, I will keep Wheatfield safe by being tough, but fair and compassionate."

Pictured, from left to right, the Hon. James Faso (Town of Niagara), Hon. Thomas Sheeran (Town of Lewiston), Hon. Kevin Mack (who had the honor of swearing in Strenkoski), Town of Pendleton, Hon. Strenkoski (Town of Wheatfield), Hon. Edward Maziarz (Town of Pendleton), Hon. John P. Teixeira (Town of Niagara (retired)), and Hon. Anthony L. Restaino (Town of Niagara). (Photo submitted by Justin Higer)

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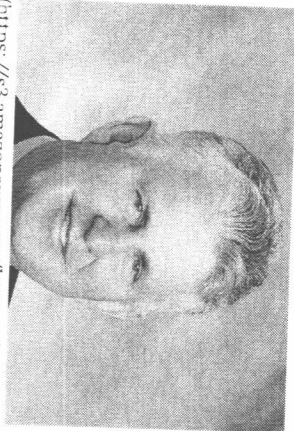
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THE BUFFALO NEWS

Construction company owner to run for Wheatfield justice

By Thomas J. Prohaska (https://buffalonews.com/author/thomas_prohaska/) | Published June 6, 2017 | Updated June 6, 2017

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Gary E. Strenkoski

Gary E. Strenkoski, owner of Strenkoski Brothers Construction Co., announced that he is running for Wheatfield town justice.

Strenkoski, a Republican, said he intends to enter the GOP, Democratic, Independence, Conservative and Working Families primaries in September.

Strenkoski, 64, has not run for political office before, but he has been active in the community as a volunteer. He has served on the boards of the Niagara USA Chamber, the Niagara-Wheatfield Athletic Association, Opportunities Unlimited and the Wheatfield Kiwanis Club. He also is a member of the Niagara Military Affairs Council and the LaSalle Sportsmen's Club.

"My life experiences have taught me how to be compassionate with people, but stern when required. I have learned to see people, both good and bad, for what they are. I will treat all people without prejudice and be fair," Strenkoski said.

Incumbent Town Justice Erin P. Delabio is running for Niagara County Family Court judge this fall.



(https://buffalonews.com/author/thomas_prohaska/)**Thomas J. Prohaska** – Thomas Prohaska has been a reporter for The Buffalo News since 1995. A graduate of Starpoint Central High School and St. Bonaventure University, he previously worked at WLVL Radio in Lockport.

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Town of Wheatfield: Cliffe will not run for re-election

Tue, Apr 18th 2017 05:20 pm

Town of Wheatfield Supervisor Robert B. Cliffe has announced he will not seek re-election this November.

"I have been planning this since 2009 when I first ran," Cliffe said. "My goal was to have two four-year terms. I was not able to change to four-year terms, but after eight years, it is time for someone else to bring their energy and ideas to this critical position. I'm a strong believer in term limits. I include myself in this concept."

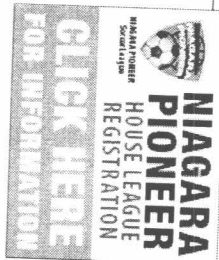
Cliffe said the Town Board members and department heads have worked together to accomplish "a great deal" since he took on the position of supervisor. He said the "critical component was getting a handle on finances, and we have done that."

Improvements to Fairmount Park, including the recent installation of handicapped-accessible pathways and new restrooms, were completed, as well. Cliffe also said "substantial strides" have been made in the town's recreation programs.

He added, "We've done several major infrastructure repairs and improvements, and passed the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, the farm protection plan and a new solar law, and so much more."

Also several drainage improvements were made throughout the town.

However, there is more to be done, Cliffe said.



"We have to continue with maintenance, and we also need to keep looking for improvements in troubled areas," he said. Looking to the future, Cliffe said some of the challenges his successor will face are seeing through the "final disposition" of the Niagara Sanitation Landfill, including the completion of the fence around the site.

"Of course, the main work is being done by DEC, but the town will continue to be involved," he said. Cliffe also said the challenge of how to install Wheatfield's portion of the proposed Greenway Trail bike path will be something to be worked on in the future.

When asked if he had any advice for his successor, Cliffe said, "The single most important asset of any position of authority is the ability to listen and learn. Whether there is a major problem to solve, or someone's minor issue in their backyard, they both need the attention of our supervisor. Listen to the advice of our experts, as well as the volunteers who are willing to share ideas. Also, we have a great group of department heads, all of whom put our residents needs ahead of their own. Listen to their concerns, ask some tough questions and offer ideas, then let the departments carry out their work with continued focus on residents."

As for staying involved with politics, Cliffe said he is "not planning to stay on the inside, but I'll always be ready to help where needed."

Meanwhile, the Wheatfield Republican Committee has endorsed longtime Wheatfield resident Don MacSwan to run for supervisor. In a press release by the Wheatfield Republican Committee, Republican Chairman and Wheatfield Deputy Supervisor Larry Helwig said MacSwan is "a great choice who brings a lot of experience and continuity to the ticket."

Helwig added, "Having lived here and worked for the town for over 30 years, (MacSwan) understands the needs of the town and how to keep moving us forward."

MacSwan began working with the town in 1967 on a part-time basis. He said he was drafted into the U.S. Army and, when he returned, began working with the town Highway Department as a mechanic and an equipment operator. MacSwan then transferred to the Recreation Department to help develop the town park system. Later, he became the town building inspector for many years.

He has also worked with and Cambria and the Niagara County Community College dormitory project. MacSwan currently works part-time for the Town of Lewiston's Building Department.

He also worked on the Wheatfield Planning Board and did extensive work with the Wheatfield Community Center.

"I've always loved the Town of Wheatfield," MacSwan said. "I've been here most of my life, and I always felt in my heart that I wanted to be the town supervisor. In a way, I almost came back to the town for how good they've been to me for so many years, and believing that I can run an efficient and (firm) government as I did as a department head."

Along with Cliffe, Councilman Arthur Gerbec, who has served in his position for nearly nine years, has decided not to seek re-election after completing his term this year.

"I tend to be a believer in two-term ... candidates," Gerbec said. "I think it's a good idea to get new citizens in our community involved and give them the opportunity. I mean, I was strong enough and old enough to hold the position, but that's not fair. And just to do the two terms, I think that's enough. I did my part, now let somebody else do theirs."

During his time as councilman, Gerbec has worked to create the town's Fire Advisory Board, has been very involved with planning the town's future veterans memorial for Fairmount Park, and has helped to lead the town's Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

Gerbec said he plans to stay involved with politics in the town, possibly joining the Planning Board or Zoning Board in the future.

The Republican Committee also endorsed the Hon. Erin DeLabio, who is seeking the Family Court judge position that is being vacated by the Hon. John Batt. DeLabio is a Wheatfield resident and currently a town justice.

"Judge DeLabio has served this community for years with nothing short of high grades," Helwig said. "Her experience and fair approach to the bench cannot be matched; she's a wonderful candidate and we're proud she's from Wheatfield."

The committee decided to endorse a list of Republican incumbents, including Councilman Randy Retzlaff, Niagara County legislators Becky Wydysh, Kathryn Lance and David Godfrey, and Coroner Joseph Mantione.

The committee also endorsed Curt Doktor for Gerbec's position on the Town Board.



Gary Strenkoski, a local businessman and longtime Wheatfield resident, is vying to replace DeLabio as the town justice.

CPS

- CPS has taken “hands-off” approach throughout my sister’s case despite credible evidence to suggest that their involvement was essential in seeking more information in protecting the well-being of Katie’s two minor children.
- CPS Kelly Custode informed me and Katie that Randy Margulis, Peter’s attorney and Jason Cafarella, Attorney for Children (AFC) called CPS directly to state that there was no way neglect/abuse could have occurred during supervised visitations because a licensed clinical social worker was present at each visit with Peter and his family. Why would an Attorney for Children intervene with getting to the bottom of child abuse and neglect affecting his own clients?
- Eric, a caseworker from CPS assigned to a current open CPS investigation recently called and told me that Peter had an order of protection against Katie for her daughter. How would Eric know this information before we did? Later that day, there were a total of four Niagara County Sheriff’s investigators who came to the door and Brett Thompson stated they had a warrant for Katie’s arrest and asked if my mom wanted a copy of it and my mom said yes. He then stated he had to go back to the car and get it. He handed her the paper and when she reviewed it later after they had left, she noticed it was an order of protection she was handed and NOT a warrant for her arrest as he originally stated.

My mom asked Brett how Peter was able to get an order of protection when her own daughter couldn’t even get one. My mom said after she asked, Brett’s mouth dropped in shock and he asked how she knew that Peter had an order of protection. My mom proceeded to tell him that Eric from CPS had told her daughter, Christina, earlier that day.

There were several neighbors who witnessed these various public displays of intimidation by the Niagara County Sheriff’s Department.