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March 27, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Jeff Keeling
WJHL
338 E Main Street
Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

Dear Mr. Keeling:

In response to your questions sent to me on March 25, 2025, I wish to send you this reply.

In August of 2023, I requested that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation initiate a formal investigation into allegations of public corruption made against the Johnson City Police Department regarding Sean Williams. At the time of my request, my office was handling the sexual assault allegations against Williams, and I felt the request necessary to avoid any possible conflict of interest. TBI typically handles public corruption cases and has a vast depth of experience in doing so.

Initially, the scope of my request for the investigation was in response to allegations made by Williams that members of the JCPD had stolen money from a safe belonging to him. However, the scope of the TBI investigation broadened significantly as other allegations of public corruption came to light through filings in Federal Court as well as through other sources.

Following the conclusion of the TBI's investigation, their findings were presented to me for review. It would be inappropriate for me to make full comments on the details of their investigation, but I can share that the investigation included examination of several thousand pages of financial records along with a significant number of interviews. In my review of the investigation, no credible evidence was found by the TBI to substantiate any allegations of corruption, bribery or other criminal misconduct by any member of the Johnson City Police Department. I have complete faith in the TBI's capability to investigate such matters and feel that they did a thorough and commendable job in this case.

Relying upon the findings of the TBI during their investigation, there are no criminal charges for my office to pursue. However, should additional evidence surface in the future, I will refer that evidence to the TBI and reconsider my decision if appropriate.

I should note that at the time of my request to the TBI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was already underway with their own investigation into allegations of public corruption which were made against members of the Johnson City Police Department. As a state official, I am not able to review the details of the FBI investigation. Nevertheless, I have met with FBI officials and have been assured that their investigation was also concluded without any substantiated instances of corruption, bribery or other criminal misconduct.

My office is committed to prosecuting Sean Williams for sexual based offenses which were committed by him in Johnson City, Tennessee. Currently, my office has indicted three cases against Williams which relate to sexual offenses committed against children. In one of these cases, should he be convicted, Williams will face an automatic sentence of life without parole. Additional charges against Williams will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Respectfully,



Steven R. Finney
District Attorney General