



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Division of

Alaska State Troopers

Sarah Palin, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

October 2, 2008

The Honorable Les Gara
716 W. 4th Ave. Ste. 540
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Gara,

I have carefully considered your request to dedicate resources to investigate potential witness tampering in the matter of an ongoing legislative investigation. Although the Alaska State Troopers (AST) are mandated to enforce criminal and regulatory laws throughout the state, investigations into reported violations are always subject to certain practical limitations even in normal situations. The current situation is anything but normal. Therefore, the short answer is that I cannot dedicate resources at this time. The following explanation is provided to describe the primary reasons.

AST has never been able to investigate all suspected crimes. Complaints are always placed on a priority schedule. While you raise a serious issue, AST would not be able to investigate this type of crime with our current workload of other important investigations. If resources become available AST could re-evaluate the request.

AST is a central figure in the circumstances surrounding the investigation you request. Even though I have no doubt that we would provide an unbiased investigation, it would never be perceived that way. AST would also be placed in the awkward position of investigating the attorney general who has filed a complaint with the judiciary to determine the validity of the subpoenas.

There are other venues which may be more appropriate such as a joint legislative/executive directive to AST to hire and manage an unbiased investigator for this type of sensitive investigation. But at this time, the further embroilment of AST into this would be detrimental to the agency and would not lead to any type of acceptable conclusion.

Sincerely,

Colonel Audie Holloway
Director

cc: Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner
John D. Glass, Deputy Commissioner

"Public Safety through Public Service"

Office of the Director

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