



Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union

October 5, 2020

Ryan O'Connor, Ramsey County Manager
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear County Manager O'Connor:

Please consider this correspondence a formal complaint from the Ramsey County Commander's Union, the Ramsey County Sergeant's Union and the Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union regarding Public Information Officer (PIO) Roy Magnuson's endorsement of John Thompson for Minnesota House 67A. The role of public information officer is an appointed position, a position the public considers *the official voice* of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. As such, anyone holding the position should reasonably know the significant amount of influence their position holds within the department and among the general public.

Internal policies prohibit employees from identifying themselves as an employee of the Sheriff's Office and prohibits employees from using the department name to "endorse, support, oppose...any political campaign." On, or around, January 9, 2020 Magnuson endorsed John Thompson for Minnesota House District 67A. Within days Thompson's political campaign posted a video of Magnuson's endorsement on their official Facebook page, a social media platform commonly used by political candidates to further their campaign. During the endorsement video Magnuson verbally identified himself as the public information officer with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. Mentioning one's position and title could be an accident, if it only happened one time, followed with a specific disclaimer any political speech or expression was not representative of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Magnuson clearly intended to use the color of the Sheriff's Office, bolstered by his official position, to influence voters and department employees to garner political support for Thompson. The official endorsement video displayed a near constant running banner of, "Roy Magnuson." Displayed under his name was a rotating banner



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displaying, "Ramsey Cty. Sheriff's Office," followed by, "Public Information Officer," ending with, "endorsing John Thompson for 67A." During the two-minute video the department name, official job title, and the political endorsement rotated three to four times EACH. This may be a violation of laws in place that prohibit employees from using, "their official authority or influence to interfere with or the result of an election" (5 USC § 1502).

Magnuson used the power and influence associated with his official position to endorse one political candidate and party- the MN DFL and John Thompson for District 67A- actions expressly prohibited by policy, "unless specifically authorized by the Sheriff." Immediately after Magnuson stated his official title within the department, he noted Thompson had, "a lot of reason to harbor a lot of anger," in the same breath stating, "we need to find a way for the regular citizens and law enforcement to do well together..." While Magnuson stated his official position within Minnesota's first law enforcement agency and the responsibility law enforcement has toward the community, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office banner scrolled along the screen. Internal policies prohibit employees from representing the department, or "identify themselves in any way that could be reasonably perceived as representing the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office" while appearing in any video, or public broadcast to endorse a political campaign.

Due to Magnuson misrepresenting his personal endorsement of Thompson, the public believed both the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and the Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union endorsed Thompson (see attached photographs). On September 16, 2020, the Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union issued a press release in response to the confusion to clarify our Union did NOT endorse Thompson. Shortly after our press release Thompson's campaign took down Magnuson's endorsement video.

As you may recall, Thompson threatened to burn down a neighborhood, berated children, used homophobic slurs, expressed hateful sentiments toward all law enforcement and beat an effigy of a police officer and his wife. Our Unions condemn Thompson's appalling and violent behavior. Further, employees felt Thompson's actions were hateful and offensive, not only to law enforcement but, more importantly, to the public, specifically women and children. Magnuson has refused to acknowledge or address the endorsement with the department's 450 employees.



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The Ramsey County Commander's Union, the Ramsey County Sergeant's Union, and the Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union have a combined membership of over 230. Upwards of 60 employees, including deputies, sergeants and commanders individually signed this complaint to demonstrate their frustration with Magnuson's endorsement of John Thompson, as it was intentionally misleading and in conflict with department policy. Many of the remaining members gave us their verbal support, but out of fear of retaliation, they were unwilling to publicly denounce Magnuson's endorsement.

We echo the sentiments of other law enforcement associations and call for those supporting Thompson to publicly withdraw their support. Anyone that continues to support Thompson's candidacy cannot be considered a supporter of law enforcement, including Roy Magnuson.

Please keep us informed on how the County and the Sheriff's Office plan to address our concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Neill, Ramsey County Commander's Union

Ryan O'Neill, Ramsey County Commander's Union

Mark Suchy, Ramsey County Sergeant's Union

Allison Schaber, Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union

Enclosures: Cited policies
Named complainants



Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union

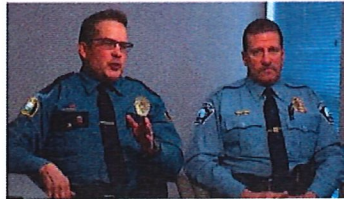
August 27, 2018 John Thompson's personal Facebook page post, including comments section, about Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Inspector Dave Titus, then St. Paul Police Union President, and Minneapolis Police Union President LT. Bob Kroll.

-One comment notes "Stupid bastards. Time for a guillotine [sic]."

John Thompson is with David Titus. Aug 27, 2018 · 🌐

Wow.

what a pair



👍👍👍 42

12 Comments · 4 Shares

👍👍👍 42 >

thanks JT ;)

2y Like Reply



Conor Hatch
Stupid bastards
Time for a guillotine

2y Like Reply



Corydon Nilsson
That's a helluvalot of racist tendencies in one photo right there lol. #F12

2y Like Reply



Lisa Anne Schafer-Garcia
Ugly evil MF's. Kkkroll poster child for white supremacy. Ugh 🤢

2y Like Reply



Linda JI
This is why Minnesota is a police state that tolerates summary executions by police. After all the police decide who is "fair game." That's their words. Fair game. No need for court system and due process. Police are judge, jury, and executioners in Minnesota. Minnesota absolutely is a de facto penalty state. Its all based on police discretion and their training that they never even reveal to the public.

2y Like Reply

December 22, 2019 John Thompson's official FB page posted about his launch party for District 67A with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer (PIO) Roy Magnuson.

John Thompson for District 67A was live. Dec 22, 2019 · 🌐

Speakers Curtis Avent, KingDemetrius Pendleton, Jane Prince, and Roy Magnuson at the Launch party.



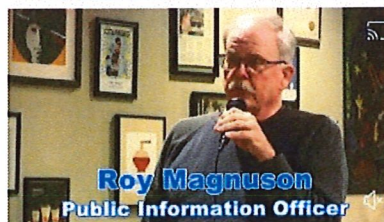
Send Message



January 9, 2020 New Hughes Video Feed FB page posted video of RCSO PIO Magnuson official endorsement of John Thompson for Minnesota House District 67A.

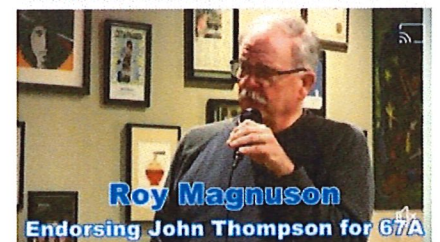
New Hughes Video Feed is with John Thompson for District 67A and 3 others. Jan 9 · 🌐

Roy Magnuson, Public Information Officer with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, endorses John Thompson for Minnesota House District 67A.



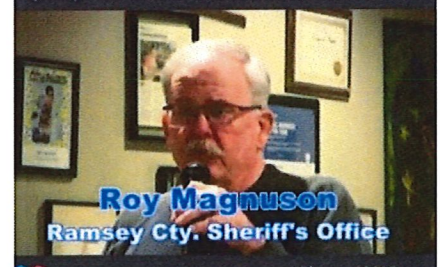
January 13, 2020 Thompson's official political campaign FB page posted PIO Magnuson's endorsement video.

Roy Magnuson, Public Information Officer with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, endorses John Thompson for Minnesota House District 67A.



John Thompson for District... Follow Jan 13 · 🌐

Roy Magnuson Endorses John Thompson for 67A





Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union

August 15, 2020 Protest at the home of MPD Lt. Bob Kroll and wife and WCCO reporter, Liz Collin.

DFL candidate supported by Walz screams at teenage girls during Bob Kroll protest

Thompson was endorsed by the Minnesota DFL Party and Gov. Tim Walz in his campaign for the State Legislature.

By Anthony Gockowski August 15, 2020

Facebook Twitter



Alpha News
Aug 15 at 20:28 •

More from John Thompson who recently won his Primary for 67A in St. Paul as he yells profanities & anti-police rhetoric w neighborhood children & residents nearby.

"We sick of yo' white a*s!"

Thompson lead BLM protesters to the home of Police Union President Bob Kroll in Hugo



KSTP-TV
16h •

Like Page

lews

Chants of "Hey hey, ho ho, Bob Kroll has got to go" resounded outside the Minneapolis police union head's home in Hugo on Saturday afternoon.



KSTP.COM
Protesters gather outside home of Minneapolis Police Federation President Bob Kroll

1K

1K Comments • 79 Shares

Mill City Citizen Media
1h •

Protesters are hitting piñatas resembling MPD Lt. Bob Kroll and his wife, WCCO anchor Liz Collin in the driveway of their Hugo, MN home now.



TWINCITIES.COM
East Side residents weigh in after legislative candidate's tirade outside Hugo home of police ...

August 16, 2020 Photographs from the protest- photo credit Nekima Levy Armstrong FB page

Nekima Levy Armstrong updated her cover photo.
2h •



140
4 Comments • 1 Share
Like Comment Share

Nekima Levy Armstrong
3h •

Friends, Here are some of the amazing images that KingDemetrius Pendleton captured yesterday during our Rally and March outside the home of Bob Kroll, the Minneapolis Police Federation President who has a history of violence and



Nekima Levy Armstrong
YESTERDAY AT 2:42





Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff's Union

August 16 or 17, 2020 (approximate date)-Private citizen posted on FB about their belief Sheriff Fletcher endorsed Thompson. Current RSCO employee (name redacted) responded to private citizen.



Todd Alan

And I want you all to know Ramsey county sheriff BOB FLETCHER SUPPORTS JOHN THOMPSON AND HIS RUNNING FOR SEAT 67a I suggest we all call the sheriff and ask why he supports this man who threaten to burn down Hugo !!

5w Like Reply



Todd Alan Damn, Todd. That was already addressed. Fletcher had no clue Thompson was this warped.

5w Like Reply



Todd Alan

Todd Alan have a question for you how can you support Fletcher when he supports John Thompson??? If you saw what Thompson did today outside BOB KROLLS house you would puke your a disgrace to law enforcement if you support him or Fletcher what happened today outside KROLLS house the language calling kids no more than 9 years old nothing but little racists how can you pat support that shit



Todd Alan the same of a racist and disturbed by his comments. Lmao, the fact no one has noticed the racist Thompson's vulgar language towards the citizens in the neighborhood are totally racist, and the threats to burn down Hugo they definitely are racist.

5w Like Reply



Todd Alan

and I appreciate that you answered the question and I have always had respect for you but I'm just a simpleton I want to hear FLETCHER denounce what happened today or my campaign to continue asking will go on you don't have to speak for Fletcher he does he needs to denounce what happened today and pull support for John Thompson until that time I will continue to ask The sheriff why ??? It is not an unreasonable request I don't think.

5w Like Reply



John Thompson for District 67A

Aug 17 at 15:54 •

August 17, 2020
Thompson's campaign FB page issued a statement in response to his behavior during the protest.

I became an activist and ran for the legislature to make a difference, to work diligently to fix our broken criminal justice system, dismantle institutional racism, and honor my friend, Philando Castile and become a symbolism of help within our community. I want to make a positive difference, and my comments on Saturday were not helpful. Inflammatory rhetoric is not how I want to address the important issues we're facing, and I apologize. I'm not apologizing for my passion to fight injustice.

September 16, 2020 another private citizen posted on FB about their belief the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and Unions endorsed Thompson.



Sara Rasque-Michener

Can we also look at why @RamseySheriff endorsed John Thompson? They haven't rescinded their endorsement either and they should. Union Local 320 and Ramsey County Sheriff should pull their endorsements for John Thompson, DFL candidate for 67A. Magnuson-PIO <https://www.facebook.com/Johnfor67A/videos/roy-magnuson-endorses-john-thompson-for-67a/2400000880217395/>

7h Like Reply



Nathan Raddatz

Roy continues to "like" posts on John's page. What an embarrassment for Ramsey County Sheriff's Department.

7h Like Reply



Sara Rasque-Michener

[Nathan Raddatz](#) Agree! Why would the MPPOA be o.k. with the Sheriff's Department being o.k. with this.

7h Like Reply

