



**JEFF PHILLIPS**  
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August 18, 2022

Hans Stiritz

Via Email: [Hansstiritz@gmail.com](mailto:Hansstiritz@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Stiritz:

I am writing in reference to two issues which my office was asked to look into. This letter is intended to provide you with an update on both situations.

The first issue was concerning the behavior of someone who was offering canvassers working for Fair Play for Arkansas money to dispose of signed petitions that they have gathered. Your position is basically they were being paid to destroy documents in an attempt to frustrate an attempt to put an issue on the ballot. When I initially reviewed the evidence and turned it over to my chief deputy we both felt there had to be a crime committed. After a thorough investigation and research, we came to the conclusion that the petition fraud Statute 5-55-601 is completely silent on this type of behavior. Because we felt like it was inappropriate, my office has submitted a Legislative proposal to the Prosecutor Coordinator's office for consideration at the next session. Basically, we are proposing that Statute 5-55-601 be amended to address the type of behavior. We also proposed that an amendment could be passed to allow prosecution for tampering with public records under 5-54-121. Feel free to contact my office during the session to determine the status of our proposal.

My office also looked into a situation where an employee's of Fair Play for Arkansas home burnt. There was concern that this was not an accidental burning and could possibly be the result of an intentional criminal act. I received the background information concerning this case and requested the assistance of the Arkansas State Police. The Arkansas State Police then requested the assistance of their experts in the area of arson. The information was submitted to the State Police and more specifically your hired expert. The piece of evidence that purports to show intentional setting was a lengthy investigation by a private company who routinely conducts these types of fire investigations. I reviewed their report and could not see any determining factor that shows this wasn't an accidental fire. I was not alone in this determination as the State Police experts both said they were surprised that the investigator came to these definitive conclusions based upon the evidence at the scene. It is clear to me that the owners of the structure did not have any intent to do this as it is my

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understanding they did not have insurance. However, I think it is just as likely, if not more so, that this was an accidental fire as opposed to it intentionally being set.

If you would like to discuss either of these conclusions with me do not hesitate to contact me through email or phone. I also am not opposed to sitting down with you in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Phillips", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Phillips

JP/jm