



DANIEL K. KNIGHT, Prosecutor
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2-13-19

**Stephen Wyse
Attorney at Law
609 East Broadway
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Dear Stephen,

I have read the letter you sent to me on 2-12-19, and I have reviewed available records regarding cases you referenced in your letter that were handled by the Boone County Prosecutor's Office involving Barry Manthe.

First and foremost, protecting victims of crime, particularly children and sex crime victims, has been and always will be a top priority for my office. A tremendous amount of effort is expended by my staff to ensure that justice is achieved in these very serious cases.

In 1998, in case number 13R019861213, the charge of promoting prostitution in the second degree was filed against Manthe. In 2003, the charge was dismissed for reasons unknown to me. This case was handled by an assistant prosecutor who no longer works at this office. Our office no longer possesses the file regarding this case because it was destroyed in accordance with the Missouri Prosecutor Records Retention Schedule which is provided by the Missouri Secretary of State.

In 2014, in case number 14BA-CR02197, an assistant prosecutor charged Manthe with promoting prostitution in the third degree. In 2015, Manthe pled guilty to the amended charge of trespass in the first degree, and pursuant to a

plea agreement, he received a fine of \$250. It is my understanding that the assistant prosecutor entered into the plea agreement because the key witness denied that Manthe promoted prostitution in the case.

I am not aware of any special consideration or breaks being requested at any time on Manthe's behalf by any police agency to anyone at the Boone County Prosecutor's Office for any reason in connection with the two cases referenced above or in any other matter, nor am I aware of any special consideration or breaks being given to Manthe at any time by anyone at the Boone County Prosecutor's Office for any reason in connection with the two cases referenced above or in any other matter. Also, I am not aware of any wrongdoing by any staff at the Boone County Prosecutor's Office in connection with any matter related to Manthe.

In your letter you contend that "a special prosecutor is needed to investigate the level of criminality engaged in by our law enforcement officials in Barry Manthe's illicit drug and sex-trafficking operations." In Missouri, the standard practice is that police agencies, and not prosecutors, conduct initial investigations to determine if there is criminal activity. After initial investigations are completed, some cases are then sent to prosecutors for review. To my knowledge, there has not been an initial investigation of this matter completed by any police agency. Therefore, if you wish for this matter to be pursued, you should refer it to the appropriate police agency for investigation.

Also, in your letter you request me to "Please take steps to request that the Missouri Attorney General appoint a special prosecutor to investigate what, if any, illegal actions were taken in furtherance of the [sic] Manthe's drug and sex-trafficking operation by law enforcement officials." Judges in jurisdictions where alleged criminal activity has occurred may, in certain circumstances, appoint special prosecutors, but the Missouri Attorney General's Office does not have this authority.

Sincerely,



Daniel K. Knight