



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

September 12, 2024

Sheriff Mike Lewis
401 W. Naylor Mill Rd.
Salisbury, MD 21801

Dear Sheriff Lewis,

After much deliberation, I am writing to formally request an investigation into the alleged sharing of pornographic images of me by one of your deputies. It is deeply concerning that a deputy would share such a photo, and even more troubling that you have acknowledged possessing such an image. You mentioned this to a private citizen, a group of individuals in Annapolis to which you added that the image was shared from a government phone, and in a meeting with your chief deputy, the state's attorney, the assistant director of administration, and myself—all without my consent.

Since we last discussed this issue, it is my understanding that no investigation has been initiated by any member of your command staff, your deputies, or any outside agency.

On February 13, 2024, you told Matthew Leitzel, Deputy Director of Administration, that under Maryland law, "revenge porn" only applies in the context of an intimate relationship between the parties. While I agree that no such intimate relationship exists between myself and the deputy in question, your interpretation of Maryland's revenge porn statute is incorrect. The law does not require an intimate relationship between the individuals for the prohibition against distributing explicit images to apply.

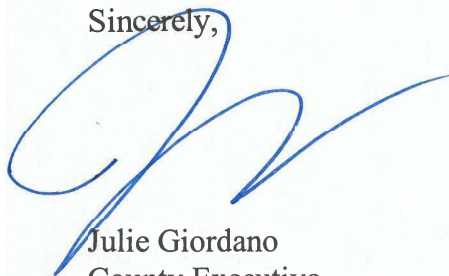
No member of the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office or any other law enforcement agency has permission to possess any visual representation of myself with my intimate parts exposed or whole engaged in an act of sexual activity. I have never consented to the creation of any visual representation of myself with my intimate parts exposed or while engaged in an act of sexual activity. I have never provided anyone consent to distribute any visual representation of me with my intimate parts exposed or while engaged in an act of sexual activity.

This matter is straightforward: either a deputy shared a nude photograph of me, or they did not. If such an image has been shared, this constitutes a criminal act. Such conduct is a violation of Maryland criminal law (see Maryland Annotated Code, Criminal Law Article Section 3-809), as well as potentially federal law. Any deputy involved in sharing or distributing these images must be held accountable and should face criminal charges.

As the Sheriff of Wicomico County, you are responsible for upholding the law within this jurisdiction. I ask that you request an investigation into this matter, as I know your office is conflicted, and pursue charges against the deputy responsible, as you have knowledge of this alleged criminal act. I am prepared to cooperate fully with any investigation.

Thank you for your attention into this matter. My personal attorney and I look forward to an update on the situation by the end of the month.

Sincerely,



Julie Giordano
County Executive