

STATEMENT REGARDING CHIEF MCELREE

I have been requested to provide a comment regarding Bucks County District Attorney Joe Kahn's predictable refusal to press charges and hold accountable Quakertown Police Chief Scott McElree's conduct after he attacked multiple juveniles during the now infamous "Quakertown 5's" anti-ICE protest 5+/- months ago. This decision is nothing short of a cover-up driven by the political ambitions of a District Attorney devoid of any objectivity. Engaging a "retired use-of-force expert" previously employed by the County ensured a beneficial outcome for the Chief and the denial of justice for the Q-5 juveniles who were simply exercising their Constitutional rights on the day in question. The Chief allowed counter-protesters to harass and racially-intimidate the protesters and then, when he saw the opportunity, charged into the crowd, and applied a prohibited rear-naked-choke-hold to the smallest and youngest (female) protester. The Q5-engaged investigator chronicled the social media footprint of the Chief which clearly evidenced a historical bias which motivated his conduct on the subject day. This report was shared with investigators but, clearly, was ignored by the DA. This follows a Bucks County Police Chiefs' report which provided initial cover for Chief McElree. Thereafter, Quakertown Borough welcomed the Chief back to his dual roles as a police officer and Borough Manager. Zero accountability for his actions. Zero consequences. My client, quite reluctantly and fearfully, provided a statement to investigators which affirmed the fact that Chief McElree engaged in violent behaviors with zero indicia that he was a member of law enforcement. In my opinion, DA Khan's decision to charge 5 juveniles and give Chief McElree a total pass was driven not by the provable facts, but a "finger-in-the-air" assessment of how he can likely ascend to a higher elected office. It is a total disgrace in my opinion. These kids are decent human beings who have lived in fear – before and after the protest – because of their ethnicity, race and political activism. Everyone deserved better in this case. In closing, I will respectfully commend the Assistant District Attorneys and detectives that I have been engaged with throughout this matter. They have all been professional and above-board. I would guess that some of them would agree with the foregoing assessment. Don Souders, Esquire