

From: [Jennifer R. Pendarvis](#)
To: [Willie C Bolton](#); [scotton3](#); [Roy Fickling](#); [Hyde, Richard](#); [dkirby](#); [Dee Meadows](#); [Janet Moon](#); [Nail, Michael](#); [billy_new@bellsouth.net](#); [Oliver, Tyrone](#); [Samir Patel](#); [cdsikes](#); [Joey M. Terrell](#); [Craig Tully](#); [Ellis Wood](#); [tpiper](#); [cwright@gsp.net](#); [Lt. Colonel Billy Hitchens III](#); [Lt. Colonel Joshua Lamb](#); [Major Kendrick Lowe](#); [Major Robert Balkcom](#); [Major Thornell King](#); [Major Steve Harrison](#); [Major Rusty Harrelson](#); [Major Andrew M. Montgomery](#); [Michael Burns](#); [Franka Young](#); [Joan Crumpler](#); [Clare McGuire](#); [lorris@gsp.net](#); [Kaycee Larson](#); [Megan A. Miller](#); [Register, Michael](#); [Melvin, John](#); [Hosey, Chris](#); [Miles, Cleveland](#); [Sears, Terry](#); [Buck, Connie](#); [Miles, Nelly](#); [Westbrook, Rhonda](#); [Wigginton, Chris](#); [Cheryl Greathouse](#); [cjones@gpstc.org](#); [bdean](#); [Curry, Lauren](#)
Cc: [Kelly Ward](#); [Shana Brown](#); [Velina Pates](#); [Cindy R. Chapman](#); [Brandy Cochran](#); [Traci Brown](#); [Kara Duffey](#); [Patti Morton](#); [Jones, Machele](#); [Moore, Joy](#); [Shockley, Sharla](#); [Judy Couch](#); [Hoqan, Gwendolyn](#); [Juhmi, Simone](#); [bea.blankenship](#); [bsmith@gsp.net](#); [GPSTC](#); [Cheryl Buie](#); [Jennifer R. Pendarvis](#)
Subject: Correspondence for March 9th BPS Meeting
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:44:42 PM
Attachments: [Agenda for March 2023 BPS meeting.doc](#)
[BPS Minutes February 9 2023.doc](#)
[BPS Minutes February 14 2023.doc](#)
[Board of Public Safety- March DPS Report.pdf](#)
[BPS Report - February 2023.pdf](#)
[GBI - BPS March 2023 Report with January 2023 Stats.pdf](#)
[GPSTC Board Report - January 2023.pdf](#)

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All,

Please see the attached correspondence for the Board of Public Safety meeting on Thursday, March 9th.

We will be meeting at 10:00 AM at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, 1000 Indian Springs Drive, Forsyth in Room C-115. We will not have a virtual option this month.

BPS members, remember photos will be taken after the meeting, before lunch.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Jennifer R. Pendarvis
Troop I Secretary /
GA Board of Public Safety Liaison
Georgia State Patrol
160 Carl Alexander Way
Brunswick, GA 31525
Office: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Email: jpendarvis@gsp.net

From: [Hildebrandt, Josh](#)
To: [Williams, Mark](#); [Rabon, Walter](#); [Adams, Stephen](#); [Ambrose, Jon](#); [Barnette, Cathy](#); [Will, Ted](#); [Gaston, Artica](#); [Cown, Jeff](#); [Broce, Candice](#); [Carter, Amber](#); [Barnard, Thomas](#); [Haymans, Doug](#); [Brown, Taylor](#); [Loke, Ryan](#); [McKinnon, Mark](#); [Raulerson, Blake](#); [Noggle, Caylee](#); [Pearson, Kyle](#); [Pryor, Vonnetta](#); [Golden, Richie](#); [Jones, Tyler](#); [Nancy Addison](#); [Johnson, Angie](#); [Miki Thomaston](#); [Belcher, Carolyn](#); [Bentley, Eric](#); [billionesii@seaisland.com](#); [Billy New](#); [Blankenship, Larry](#); [Jeff Bodine Sinyard](#); [Burgess, Karl](#); [Capp, James](#); [Chambers, Kevin](#); [Cooley, James](#); [Creech, Lacey](#); [Delos "D" Yancey](#); [Duncan N. Johnson Jr.](#); [Dunn, Richard](#); [Dwight Davis](#); [Dwight Evans](#); [England, Mike](#); [Hays, Karen](#); [Joe Hatfield](#); [Johnson, Johnny](#); [Kirkland, Donald](#); [Kuoh, Dika](#); [Lips, Sara](#); [Litts, Thom](#); [Long, Mike](#); [Mueller, Chuck](#); [Paul Shailendra](#); [Peckrote](#); [Pierce, Tave](#); [Ray Lambert](#); [Roach, Dan](#); [Robert Leebern](#); [Ruoff, Erin](#); [Stowe, Carol](#); [Tim Lowe](#); [Truszczynski, Anna](#); [Visser, Sarah](#); [William Bagwell](#); [Robin Leigh](#); [Iannuzzi, Kate](#); [na@nickayers.com](#); [Williams, Laura](#); [Vowell, Gary](#); [patrick@slmrecycling.com](#); [Moore, Colby](#); [Curry, Lauren](#); [Dellinger, Randy](#); [Andrews, Jill](#)
Cc: [Hall, Courtney](#)
Subject: DNR Weekly Legislative Update
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2021 1:12:52 AM

Good Evening Y'all,

This week the House and Senate were in session Monday-Thursday. The General Assembly passed the Amended FY21 budget (HB 80). [Click here](#) to view our 2021 legislative tracking sheet. As a reminder, keep in mind that this information is for internal purposes. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Courtney Hall or me.

New Bills / Resolutions of Interest:

- HB 300 - defines law enforcement officer (includes "conservation ranger")
- HB 313 - creates the Georgia State Law Enforcement Citizen Review Council
- HB 314 - updates proper protocol for display of license plates
- HB 333 - Ethics in Government Act of 2021
- HB 339 - Georgia Environmental Justice Act of 2021
- HB 343 - updates code section on hunting on another person's property to include a rebuttable presumption of violation if the hunter has hunting paraphernalia while on the other person's property
- HB 358 - Emergency Management Act; provides when a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor will expire
- HB 362 - revises definition of 'bass'; housekeeping leg. for Board rules; revises the allowed caliber of muzzleloaders; updates to DMAP program; prohibits fishing by minnow traps; revises a creel possession limit/size restriction (DNR Agency Legislation)
- HB 364 - exempts POST certified people from required fingerprint submission for application to be licensed as a private guard, watchman, or patrolman
- HB 378 - Use of Force Data Collection Act
- HB 379 - requires employers (including SOG) to provide the salary information of any employee when requested by another employee of said employer
- HB 380 - allows for applicants for benefits to obtain their personnel files when their claim re contested by their former employers
- HB 384 - provides for the issuance of a traffic citation to the vehicle owner (instead of the vehicle operator) in certain circumstances
- SB 90 - Georgia Commission on African American History and Culture; create
- SB 95 - senate companion to HB 98 – allows for teleconference meetings in emergency conditions

- SB 100 - state will observe standard time year round
- SB 115 - provides an instructional course for acquiring drivers' licenses educating drivers on best practices to implement when interacting with LEOs
- SB 121 - expands perjury made in police reports by LEOs
- SB 124 - creates a "duty to intervene" by an LEO if he witnesses another LEO using excessive force
- SB 125 - prohibits the use of rubber bullets by an LEO during a protest/demonstration/or for any purpose
- SB 126 - removes qualified immunity from peace officers
- SB 127 - establishes a Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council
- SB 128 - establishes a Georgia Law Enforcement Citizen Review Council
- SB 129 - requires all LE agencies to equip officers who conduct traffic stops or respond to emergency dispatch calls as their primary duty with audio and video recording devices
- SB 130 - prohibits LE agencies from possessing items from the Dept. of Defense
- SB 131 - requires local prosecutors to report to the AG a prosecution of an LEO if the allegation is a felony or an act of family violence and the AG should appoint a prosecuting attorney
- SB 132 - prohibits use of force maneuvers that restrict blood or oxygen to the brain
- SB 133 - prohibits no-knock search warrants in certain circumstances
- SB 134 - requires policies that LEOs are prohibited from using race or ethnicity in determining whether to stop a motor vehicle
- SB 135 - repeals provision regarding no duty to retreat prior to use of force from procedures for indictment
- SB 138 - sets standards for LEOs engaging in vehicular pursuits

Events this Week:

- Commissioner Williams presented at the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government meeting on February 8

Upcoming Events:

- House Game Fish and Parks Committee meeting on February 16

Schedule through Legislative Day 19:

Tuesday, February 16 – Day 17

Wednesday, February 17 – Day 18

Thursday, February 18 – Day 19

Josh Hildebrandt

Director of Public and Governmental Affairs

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

([REDACTED]) | M: [REDACTED]

From: [Isenhour, Andrew](#)
To: [Kara Richardson](#)
Subject: FW: GBI-GISAC Officer Safety Alert and Private Sector Awareness- potential retaliatory violence
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 8:47:00 AM
Attachments: [DTAF Night of Rage Officer Safety Alert and Private Sector Awareness.pdf](#)

For awareness

From: Colonel Chris C. Wright <cwright@gsp.net>
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Curry, Lauren <lauren.curry@georgia.gov>; Isenhour, Andrew <andrew.isenhour@georgia.gov>; Brantley, Bert <bert.brantley@georgia.gov>
Subject: Fwd: GBI-GISAC Officer Safety Alert and Private Sector Awareness- potential retaliatory violence

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Keeping you in the loop on latest intel.

From: Bailey, Meredith <Meredith.Bailey@gbi.ga.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:25 PM
To: All INV <AllINV@gbi.ga.gov>; Command Staff Group <commandstaffgroup@gsp.net>; Capt. Paul Waller <wwaller@gsp.net>
Cc: All GISAC <AllGISAC@gbi.ga.gov>; Kirk Smith <kirk.smith@gema.ga.gov>; kelly.morrow@ocsofl.com <kelly.morrow@ocsofl.com>; Linda Criblez <linda.criblez@gema.ga.gov>; Duncan, Alison <Alison.Duncan@alea.gov>; 'jamsden@sled.sc.gov' <jamsden@sled.sc.gov>; caleb.torres@police.gatech.edu <caleb.torres@police.gatech.edu>; Caleb.Utterback@tn.gov <Caleb.Utterback@tn.gov>; Katrina Willis <kwillis@bankscountysoga.org>; nicole.randall@tigta.treas.gov <nicole.randall@tigta.treas.gov>; Weber, Jody <JodyWeber@fdle.state.fl.us>; Donahue, Timothy P. <tpdonahue@dekalbcountyga.gov>
Subject: GBI-GISAC Officer Safety Alert and Private Sector Awareness- potential retaliatory violence

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The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Georgia Information Sharing & Analysis Center (GBI-GISAC), prepared the following bulletin to gather additional information and bring awareness to public safety partners about the recent open source postings calling for violence against law enforcement and other criminal activity. Specifically, those citing January 20, 2023, as a "Night of Rage," against police and the implied threat of publicizing of specific businesses.

The vague and open-ended nature of these calls for violence makes it difficult to isolate any direct threats to specific agencies. Escalating online rhetoric increases the potential for violence on law enforcement from physical confrontation between violent opportunists seeking to provoke police

response or disrupt otherwise peaceful protest demonstrations.

Please see the attached product for additional information about the threats to law enforcement and the implied threats to the listed businesses and individuals.

This product can be shared with all public safety and private sector security partners.

GBI-GISAC recognizes constitutionally protected activities including, but not limited to, the freedom to assemble, speak, and petition the government. These First Amendment rights are respected and protected. Providing information regarding new emerging domestic terrorist extremist groups is reported with the sole purpose of informing law enforcement, first responders, and those in a position to act on potential threats to public safety.

Meredith Bailey

Supervisory Intelligence Analyst
Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
meredith.bailey@gbi.ga.gov

[REDACTED] (cell)

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From: [Joan Crumpler](#)
To: [Hatcher, Sam](#)
Cc: [tpiper](#)
Subject: FW: Incident Report & Use of Force Report (atty client privilege)
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:13:02 PM
Attachments: [Incident Report.pdf](#)
[Use of Force PAEZ TERAN, MANUEL ESTEBAN.pdf](#)

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Hi Sam



Joan

From: Joan Crumpler
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:07 PM
To: Brian Spears <bspears@civil-rights.law>
Subject: RE: Incident Report & Use of Force Report

Brian:

We are only releasing to requestors - and we will need to redact first.

Generally, we close file requests when reports are not yet ready and ask the requestors to seek them later.

Ms. Green is out of the office this evening, so I'm not sure the number of requests that have arrived for the report over the last few days. Regardless, we will release the redacted version, as soon as they are ready, to those requestors. If redaction is done tomorrow morning, we will begin releasing tomorrow morning.

Thanks again, Brian.

Joan

From: Brian Spears <bspears@civil-rights.law>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:02 PM
To: Joan Crumpler <jcrumpler@gsp.net>
Subject: RE: Incident Report & Use of Force Report

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Joan —

Tomorrow morning is fine.

Do you anticipate a general release of the redacted report to occur sometime tomorrow [rather than this evening]?

Thanks.

Brian

From: Joan Crumpler <jcrumpler@gsp.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 5:57 PM
To: Brian Spears <bspears@civil-rights.law>
Cc: Jeff Filipovits <jeff@civil-rights.law>
Subject: RE: Incident Report & Use of Force Report

Brian:

Yes, of course. We have not yet redacted the information, but will get a redacted version to you tomorrow morning. Will that work?

Thank you,
Joan

From: Brian Spears <bspears@civil-rights.law>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 5:55 PM
To: Joan Crumpler <jcrumpler@gsp.net>
Cc: Jeff Filipovits <jeff@civil-rights.law>
Subject: RE: Incident Report & Use of Force Report

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Joan –

Is it possible to provide me with a copy of the reports in which the names of the officers are redacted? I anticipate that my office will receive requests for copies of the reports and want to avoid inadvertent release of the officer names.

Brian

Brian Spears
Spears & Filipovits, LLC
315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Ste. 865
Decatur, Georgia 30030

 Phone
Fax

From: Brian Spears
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 5:33 PM
To: Joan Crumpler <jcrumpler@gsp.net>
Cc: Jeff Filipovits <jeff@civil-rights.law>
Subject: RE: Incident Report & Use of Force Report

Joan –

Thank you for sending the two reports.

I acknowledge that the reports contain the names of officers. I will contact you with any further questions about what has been provided.

Brian

Brian Spears
Spears & Filipovits, LLC
315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Ste. 865
Decatur, Georgia 30030

 Phone
Fax

From: Joan Crumpler <jcrumpler@gsp.net>

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:33 PM
To: Brian Spears <bspears@civil-rights.law>
Subject: Incident Report & Use of Force Report

Brian:

I have attached the finalized DPS Incident Report, which is inclusive of the attached Use of Force Report.

DPS intends to redact officer names to requestors other than your law firm for purposes of officer safety.

As you and I discussed this week, DPS is fully disclosing the officers' names with the attached documents to you and your law firm. This is solely because your law firm represents the family of Manuel Teran.

DPS hereby accepts your law firm's proposal not to disclose the officers' names, mentioned by you in our discussion this week, as there remain threats surrounding the officers and arising from this incident. We ask that you extend this commitment of redaction and nondisclosure to all persons to whom you may provide the attached reports and information, respectively.

If we release the officers' names to requestors who are not a part of the criminal or administrative investigations, we will let you know to relieve you of any further commitment.

If you have any questions or concerns about what I have provided here, please feel free to contact me directly.

Best Regards,

Joan G. Crumpler
Director
Legal Services Division
Georgia Department of Public Safety
959 United Ave., S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30316
Submit your records request online: <https://eports.gamccd.net/orportal>

From: [Kara Richardson](#)
To: [Douglas, Garrison](#); [Chapman, Carter](#)
Subject: FW: Last week's arrests and DHS response
Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:35:47 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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FYI



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office
(404) 458-3225
kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>
Subject: Last week's arrests and DHS response

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Hi Kara,

I'm working on an article today following up on last week's arrests. And my article will focus heavily on how the Department of Homeland Security is responding to the citations in the arrest warrants to the May 24 bulletin. Essentially, DHS is saying that they did not classify any groups related to the protests of the public safety training center as "domestic violent extremists" and that any assertion to that end is improper. Knowing that the DVE designation is one of the justifications that was used to arrest the three individuals, I wanted to know if the Attorney General's Office has any response to this.

I hope to receive a response ASAP.

Regards,

Tia

Tia Mitchell

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Washington Correspondent

Cell: [REDACTED]

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<https://myaccount.ajc.com/ajc/preference>

From: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 5:20 PM
To: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Info on 6/2 Hearing and 5/31 Arrests

Hi Tia,

Just saw your article [here](#) and thought it might be helpful to send some information about Friday's First Appearance hearing to potentially share the other side of the story. I've also sent this info to Greg and Jozsef.

The judge granted bond based upon all of the facts that he heard in the case.

The State discussed evidence of:

WHAT THEY DO: Organizing and supporting non-profits and protests. For example, non-profits include food for the hungry and a bail fund. The protests include demonstrating after the murder of George Floyd. While all of this is going on, they are also conducting unlawful activity by supporting violence and property damage.

July 5, 2020 – Demonstrations regarding the George Floyd murder. During peaceful demonstrations, a small group broke off and attacked DPS headquarters, culminating with a Molotov cocktail being thrown into the building and two people going to the hospital. The individual arrested and a person with him have financially and operationally been connected to this group.

July 3, 2022 – 10 people were walking down the road in all black. They approached Ebenezer Baptist Church, vandalized the church, and left. They split into two groups, changed into normal clothing, and removed their masks. The individuals who did this are members of the Defend the Forest group.

January 29, 2023 – A protest was organized by this group to mourn the death of a person who was shot and killed by GSP. They encouraged everyone to wear black in mourning. When the protest reached near 191 Peachtree, numerous individuals started rioting. They set an APD vehicle on fire, damaged buildings, shot mortar style fireworks into crowds, and one individual was attempting to break into a skyscraper at 191 Peachtree. He had accelerant and a lighter. Him, and the other 5 arrested, have been tied to this group financially. A recorded phone call with the man arrested with accelerant complained that too many peaceful people have joined Defend the Forest.

March 5, 2023 – These individuals organized a concert in the DeKalb County forest. They publicized it as a concert. Unbeknownst to many concern goers, a group of 100-150 individuals broke off, dressed in all black, and carried shields, weapons, and riot gear and began marching through the woods approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. They attacked police officers who were forced to retreat because they were outnumbered 10:1. The group set fire to equipment and attempted to set fire to footing

that holds up power lines. After burning everything in sight, the group went back to the field, changed clothes, and attempted to blend into the peaceful concert goers.

Numerous other acts:

- Posted information about judges and police officers online along with personal information
- Have gone to the houses of court officials

HOW DO WE KNOW:

1. Finances show us this. The Network for Strong Communities uses a financial accounting platform that records some of their transactions.

Unbeknownst to people donating to the bail fund, food fund, and other laudable funds, another fund was established known as the Forest Justice Defense Fund. Some of the funds that were donated for legitimate purposes were routed to the Forest Justice Defense Fund. The Forest fund has been used to support those occupying the forest, doing violence against others property – and we can see that in the finances. Over \$237,000 has been spent supporting the occupation of the DeKalb Woods and the violent acts surrounding it. This \$237,000 is controlled by the three defendants.

The bail fund is also used as retention. Arrested protestors: if you don't align yourself with us, we will withdraw all financial support.

2. Search warrants corroborate this. Search warrant revealed extremist writings, justification of violence against people, government, property, and religious officials.

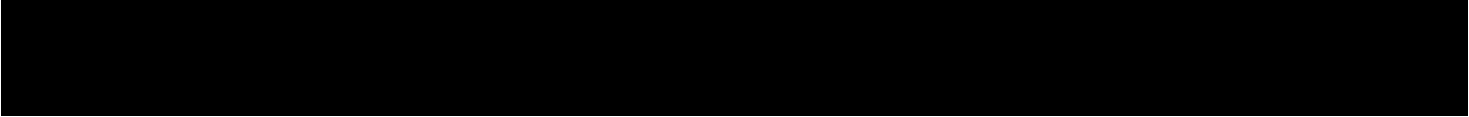
3. And the documents aren't new. Law enforcement conducted trash pulls for a long time. Numerous pieces of evidence were collected that demonstrate that they are running the Defend the Forest operation, but one in particular stands out, and it is a diary: "Radicalize liberals with subversive materials without using state solutions."




Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office
[REDACTED]
kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: [Wright Banks](#)
To: [Long, Kristyn](#)
Subject: New SB 63 Lawsuit
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:38:18 AM
Attachments: [2024.06.21 Complaint.pdf](#)
[2024.06.22 PI Motion + Brief.pdf](#)

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Thanks

Wright Banks
Chief Deputy Attorney General
Office of Attorney General Chris Carr
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334


From: [Kara Richardson](#)
To: jozsef.papp-chang@ajc.com
Subject: RE: 6/2 Hearing
Date: Friday, June 2, 2023 5:31:58 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Bond Orders.pdf](#)

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Please see the bond orders attached.



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office
[REDACTED]
kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Kara Richardson
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 3:04 PM
To: 'jozsef.papp-chang@ajc.com' <jozsef.papp-chang@ajc.com>
Subject: 6/2 Hearing

Thought this might be helpful as it relates to today's hearing. The judge granted bond based upon all of the facts that he heard in the case.

The State discussed evidence of:

WHAT THEY DO: Organizing and supporting non-profits and protests. For example, non-profits include food for the hungry and a bail fund. The protests include demonstrating after the murder of George Floyd. While all of this is going on, they are also conducting unlawful activity by supporting violence and property damage.

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shot and killed by GSP. They encouraged everyone to wear black in mourning. When the protest reached near 191 Peachtree, numerous individuals started rioting. They set an APD vehicle on fire, damaged buildings, shot mortar style fireworks into crowds, and one individual was attempting to break into a skyscraper at 191 Peachtree. He had accelerant and a lighter. Him, and the other 5 arrested, have been tied to this group financially. A recorded phone call with the man arrested with accelerant complained that too many peaceful people have joined Defend the Forest.

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The bail fund is also used as retention. Arrested protestors: if you don't align yourself with us, we will withdraw all financial support.

2. Search warrants corroborate this. Search warrant revealed extremist writings, justification of violence against people, government, property, and religious officials.

3. And the documents aren't new. Law enforcement conducted trash pulls for a long time. Numerous pieces of evidence were collected that demonstrate that they are running the Defend the Forest operation, but one in particular stands out, and it is a diary: "Radicalize liberals with subversive materials without using state solutions."



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office



kmrichardson@law.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: [Dove, David](#)
To: [Tina Piper](#)
Cc: [Deborah Gore](#); [Meyers, Evan](#)
Subject: RE: FYI
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 4:43:27 PM
Attachments: [Williams v. Powell \(Fulton\) Complaint.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thank you Tina!

--

David B. Dove
Executive Counsel
Governor Brian P. Kemp

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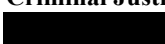
From: Tina Piper <TPiper@LAW.GA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Dove, David <david.dove@georgia.gov>
Cc: Deborah Gore <dgore@law.ga.gov>
Subject: FYI

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

David,



Thank you,
Tina Piper

Tina Piper
Senior Assistant Attorney General: Public Safety Section Chief
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Criminal Justice




tpiper@law.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

From: [Kara Richardson](#)
To: [Mitchell, Tia \(AJC-Atlanta\)](#)
Subject: RE: Last week's arrests and DHS response
Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 8:50:38 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Tia,

I'm sharing this information from DHS as it relates to their definition of Domestic Violent Extremism:

"We use the term domestic violent extremism to refer to the conduct of groups or individuals in the United States who seek to advance their ideological goals through the unlawful use of violence and the term domestic violent extremist to refer generally to individuals based and operating primarily in the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power who seeks to further social or political goals, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence".

To follow up on that definition, as included in the warrants:

[The Defend the Atlanta Forest] group has publicly claimed responsibility for numerous acts while stating their intent was to intimidate employees of the government and private companies into not accepting or completing tasks in and around the site of the Atlanta Police Training Center. These acts have included vandalism at offices and private residences; throwing Molotov cocktails, rocks, and fireworks at uniformed police officers; arson of public buildings, heavy equipment, private buildings, and private vehicles; shooting metal ball bearings at contractors; discharging firearms at critical infrastructure; preventing access to private land; and several other violations of law. These claims of responsibility have been made on websites, social media, and graffiti "tagging".

And, again, here's the state's Domestic Terrorism statute, of which 40+ people have been charged:

16-11-220. Definitions.

As used in this article, the term:

(1) "Critical infrastructure" means publicly or privately owned facilities, systems, functions, or assets, whether physical or virtual, providing or distributing services for the benefit of the public, including, but not limited to, energy, fuel, water, agriculture, health care, finance, or communication.

(2) "Domestic terrorism" means any felony violation of, or attempt to commit a felony violation of the laws of this state which, as part of a single unlawful act or a series of unlawful acts which are interrelated by distinguishing characteristics, is intended to cause serious bodily harm, kill any individual or group of individuals, or disable or destroy critical infrastructure, a state or government facility, or a public transportation system when such disability or destruction results in major

economic loss, and is intended to:

- (A) Intimidate the civilian population of this state or any of its political subdivisions;
- (B) Alter, change, or coerce the policy of the government of this state or any of its political subdivisions by intimidation or coercion; or
- (C) Affect the conduct of the government of this state or any of its political subdivisions by use of destructive devices, assassination, or kidnapping.

(3) "Public transportation system" means all facilities, conveyances, and instrumentalities, whether publicly or privately owned, that are used in or for publicly available services for the transportation of individuals or cargo.

(4) "Serious bodily harm" means harm to the body of another by depriving him or her of a member of his or her body, by rendering a member of his or her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his or her body or a member thereof.

(5) "State or government facility" means any permanent or temporary facility or conveyance that is used or occupied by representatives of this state or any of its political subdivisions, by the legislature, by the judiciary, or by officials or employees of this state or any of its political subdivisions.

I would think, at the very least, sharing DHS's definition of Domestic Violent Extremism does fit within the scope of this article.

Finally, if it helps, here's the full statement we just shared on social:

"The arrests made last week are about the violence that occurred at the site of the future Atlanta Public Safety Training Center and other locations. Our office will continue to defend the First Amendment right to peacefully protest. However, acts of violence to person or property will not be tolerated. This includes shooting police officers, throwing Molotov cocktails at law enforcement, vandalizing private homes and businesses, and setting fire to police vehicles or offices. The Georgia statute defines Domestic Terrorism, and we will not hesitate to uphold the law. In this case, as with all others, we are guided by the facts, and we will continue to use all resources at our disposal to keep the people of our state safe."

I sincerely appreciate your continued communication on this matter.

All the best,
Kara

Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr



Executive Office

[REDACTED]
kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 5:54 PM
To: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>
Subject: Re: Last week's arrests and DHS response

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Warnock's thread and letter is how the article started. But it changed considerably once I heard back from DHS and the FBI.
I want to be clear that this article is not about whether the protests have been violent or even about whether the arrests are justified.
My article is about one thing: the line in the arrest warrants that said DHS designated a group affiliated with the protests as DVE.
You've given me great material and I'm sure me and my colleagues will find it useful as we continue to write on the protests in a more global sense. It just doesn't fit within the scope of today's article.

Tia Mitchell
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Washington Correspondent
Cell: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Twitter: @AJConWashington & @TiaReports
Find me on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TiaReports>
Sign Up to receive our The Morning Jolt & AJC Politics newsletters: <https://test-myaccount.ajc.com/ajc/preference>

From: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 5:32:06 PM
To: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Last week's arrests and DHS response

Hi Tia,

Thank you for making that update.

That said, I have to assume that this article was written to coincide with the Senator's letter to DHS. I only say this because, seeing as the very Senator who wrote that letter is the pastor of the church mentioned in Friday's hearing, this item in particular seems to be very relevant – particularly

because it has yet to be mentioned once by the AJC since Friday's hearing. Never before had that information been shared by the State.

Rather than focusing on some of the alleged acts of violence presented by the State or, more so, rather than mentioning them at all, there is an entire article dedicated to the DHS designation. Both of our Senators also got an entire article dedicated to their tweets on the subject:

<https://www.ajc.com/politics/georgias-us-senators-raise-concerns-about-arrests-of-bail-fund-organizers/BCZ7FO2H3VCYNKQIMJLDUQR2HU/>. And, again, I would note that our Chief of Staff and our lead prosecutor spoke with Senator Warnock's Chief of Staff for 50 minutes to provide background on this case as a whole – before he posted his statement.

"...three individuals who operate a charity that provided bail money for protestors..." – if we're going to continue to focus on this aspect (ie the bail fund), perhaps also include the below points, as shared during Friday's hearing?

Unbeknownst to people donating to the bail fund, food fund, and other laudable funds, another fund was established known as the Forest Justice Defense Fund. Some of the funds that were donated for legitimate purposes were routed to the Forest Justice Defense Fund. The Forest fund has been used to support those occupying the forest, doing violence against others property – and we can see that in the finances. Over \$237,000 has been spent supporting the occupation of the DeKalb Woods and the violent acts surrounding it. This \$237,000 is controlled by the three defendants.

The bail fund is also used as retention. Arrested protestors: if you don't align yourself with us, we will withdraw all financial support.

Each of their arrest warrants had a sentence tying their charity to extremism, saying it raised money to "fund in part the actions of Defend the Atlanta Forest, a group classified by the United States Department of Homeland Security as Domestic Violent Extremists." The warrant also reads as follows:

Said group has publicly claimed responsibility for numerous acts while stating their intent was to intimidate employees of the government and private companies into not accepting or completing tasks in and around the site of the Atlanta Police Training Center. These acts have Included vandalism at offices and private residences; throwing Molotov cocktails, rocks, and fireworks at uniformed police officers; arson of public buildings, heavy equipment, private buildings, and private vehicles; shooting metal ball bearings at contractors; discharging firearms at critical responsibility have been made on websites, social media, and graffiti "tagging".

We are not asking for an entire article dedicated to information shared by the State. Instead, we are simply asking that as much attention be paid to some of the **evidence** discussed by the other side – even a couple of sentences in a story would be progress at this point.

Thank you,
Kara



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
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kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 5:11 PM

To: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>

Subject: RE: Last week's arrests and DHS response

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Hi Kara,

I did update the article to make clear AG Carr condemns the violence and not the protests themselves.

I had to cut his quote down because Gov. Kemp's office sent me a quote so I had to insert it in my article and change some things around. I didn't want to cut AG Carr out completely.

To be clear, my article is not about whether acts of violence occurred around the protests. I think the article makes clear there have been acts of violence around the protests. My article is about the "domestic violent extremists" designation and so I needed to focus on that.

This being said, I'm always open to feedback and hearing your concerns. So please never hesitate to reach out like to have all along the way.

As you know, there will be more articles. I still am interested in the Ebenezer angle.

Warm regards,

Tia

Tia Mitchell

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Washington Correspondent

Cell: [REDACTED]

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Sign Up to receive The Morning Jolt & AJC Politics newsletters:
<https://myaccount.ajc.com/ajc/preference>

From: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 4:55 PM

To: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Last week's arrests and DHS response

Tia,

I would kindly ask that you please correct this item in your article, since the AG has not “condemned the protests” – as his immediate statement thereafter makes clear (which I see you have cut down since the first publication of this story).

“Our office will continue to defend the First Amendment right to peacefully protest,” Carr said.

“However, we will not tolerate acts of violence to person or property. Along with our law enforcement partners, we will not hesitate to hold accountable those who violate our laws including, where appropriate, bringing charges of domestic terrorism that carry a maximum sentence of up to 35 years in prison.”

The AG has criticized rioters and “acts of violence to person or property.”

I recommended you reach out to the GBI regarding the warrants, because its *arrest* warrants. But that is also why we tried to provide extensive information regarding the alleged violent acts involving the Defend the Atlanta Forest group.

Finally, I would again note that none of the information from Friday’s hearing is included or referenced in this story. That includes the item related to Ebenezer Baptist Church which would seem to pertain here.

Thank you,
Kara



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office

kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Kara Richardson
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 1:50 PM
To: 'Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta)' <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Subject: RE: Last week's arrests and DHS response

Tia,

Following up here with a statement from AG Carr:

“Our office will continue to defend the First Amendment right to peacefully protest. However, we will not tolerate acts of violence to person or property. Along with our law enforcement partners, we will not hesitate to hold accountable those who violate our laws including, where appropriate, bringing charges of Domestic Terrorism that carry a maximum sentence of up to 35 years in prison.” – Attorney General Chris Carr

In this case, as with all of our cases, we are guided by the facts.

Thank you for reaching out on this.

All the best,
Kara



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office
[REDACTED]
kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Kara Richardson
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 1:03 PM
To: 'Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta)' <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Subject: RE: Last week's arrests and DHS response

Hi Tia,

A couple of notes here that might be helpful.

First: I would refer back to some of the information, including acts of violence, as presented during Friday's hearing.

The State discussed evidence of:

WHAT THEY DO: Organizing and supporting non-profits and protests. For example, non-profits include food for the hungry and a bail fund. The protests include demonstrating after the murder of George Floyd. While all of this is going on, they are also conducting unlawful activity by supporting violence and property damage.

July 5, 2020 – Demonstrations regarding the George Floyd murder. During peaceful demonstrations, a small group broke off and attacked DPS headquarters, culminating with a Molotov cocktail being thrown into the building and two people going to the hospital. The individual arrested and a person with him have financially and operationally been connected to this group.

July 3, 2022 – 10 people were walking down the road in all black. They approached Ebenezer Baptist Church, vandalized the church, and left. They split into two groups, changed into normal clothing, and removed their masks. The individuals who did this are members of the Defend the Forest group.

January 29, 2023 – A protest was organized by this group to mourn the death of a person who was shot and killed by GSP. They encouraged everyone to wear black in mourning. When the protest reached near 191 Peachtree, numerous individuals started rioting. They set an APD vehicle on fire, damaged buildings, shot mortar style fireworks into crowds, and one individual was attempting to break into a skyscraper at 191 Peachtree. He had accelerant and a lighter. Him, and the other 5 arrested, have been tied to this group financially. A recorded phone call with the man arrested with accelerant complained that too many peaceful people have joined Defend the Forest.

March 5, 2023 – These individuals organized a concert in the DeKalb County forest. They publicized it as a concert. Unbeknownst to many concert goers, a group of 100-150 individuals broke off, dressed in all black, and carried shields, weapons, and riot gear and began marching through the woods approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. They attacked police officers who were forced to retreat because they were outnumbered 10:1. The group set fire to equipment and attempted to set fire to footing that holds up power lines. After burning everything in sight, the group went back to the field, changed clothes, and attempted to blend into the peaceful concert goers.

Numerous other acts:

- Posted information about judges and police officers online along with personal information
- Have gone to the houses of court officials

HOW DO WE KNOW:

1. Finances show us this. The Network for Strong Communities uses a financial accounting platform that records some of their transactions.

Unbeknownst to people donating to the bail fund, food fund, and other laudable funds, another fund was established known as the Forest Justice Defense Fund. Some of the funds that were donated for legitimate purposes were routed to the Forest Justice Defense Fund. The Forest fund has been used to support those occupying the forest, doing violence against others property – and we can see that in the finances. Over \$237,000 has been spent supporting the occupation of the DeKalb Woods and the violent acts surrounding it. This \$237,000 is controlled by the three defendants.

The bail fund is also used as retention. Arrested protestors: if you don't align yourself with us, we will withdraw all financial support.

2. Search warrants corroborate this. Search warrant revealed extremist writings, justification of violence against people, government, property, and religious officials.

3. And the documents aren't new. Law enforcement conducted trash pulls for a long time. Numerous pieces of evidence were collected that demonstrate that they are running the Defend the Forest operation, but one in particular stands out, and it is a diary: "Radicalize liberals with subversive materials without using state solutions."

Second: I would also note that the State of Georgia has its own Domestic Terrorism statute, which I've included below for reference ([O.C.G.A. § 16-11-220](#)).

16-11-220. Definitions.

As used in this article, the term:

(1) "Critical infrastructure" means publicly or privately owned facilities, systems, functions, or assets, whether physical or virtual, providing or distributing services for the benefit of the public, including, but not limited to, energy, fuel, water, agriculture, health care, finance, or communication.

(2) "Domestic terrorism" means any felony violation of, or attempt to commit a felony violation of the laws of this state which, as part of a single unlawful act or a series of unlawful acts which are interrelated by distinguishing characteristics, is intended to cause serious bodily harm, kill any individual or group of individuals, or disable or destroy critical infrastructure, a state or government facility, or a public transportation system when such disability or destruction results in major economic loss, and is intended to:

- (A) Intimidate the civilian population of this state or any of its political subdivisions;
- (B) Alter, change, or coerce the policy of the government of this state or any of its political subdivisions by intimidation or coercion; or
- (C) Affect the conduct of the government of this state or any of its political subdivisions by use of destructive devices, assassination, or kidnapping.

(3) "Public transportation system" means all facilities, conveyances, and instrumentalities, whether publicly or privately owned, that are used in or for publicly available services for the transportation of individuals or cargo.

(4) "Serious bodily harm" means harm to the body of another by depriving him or her of a member of his or her body, by rendering a member of his or her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his or her body or a member thereof.

(5) "State or government facility" means any permanent or temporary facility or conveyance that is used or occupied by representatives of this state or any of its political subdivisions, by the legislature, by the judiciary, or by officials or employees of this state or any of its political subdivisions.

Third: Based solely on the facts presented to them, Judges in both DeKalb and Fulton County have signed off on numerous warrants as it relates to the ongoing investigation into criminal activity at

the site of the future Atlanta Public Safety Training Center and other locations.

Fourth: Our Chief of Staff and lead prosecutor had a 50-minute conversation with Senator Warnock's Chief of Staff, during which we shared extensive background information regarding this case overall. This conversation took place on Sunday morning, prior to the release of the Senator's statement.

Thank you,
Kara



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office
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kmrichardson@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:57 AM

To: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>

Subject: Last week's arrests and DHS response

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Hi Kara,

I'm working on an article today following up on last week's arrests. And my article will focus heavily on how the Department of Homeland Security is responding to the citations in the arrest warrants to the May 24 bulletin. Essentially, DHS is saying that they did not classify any groups related to the protests of the public safety training center as "domestic violent extremists" and that any assertion to that end is improper. Knowing that the DVE designation is one of the justifications that was used to arrest the three individuals, I wanted to know if the Attorney General's Office has any response to this.

I hope to receive a response ASAP.

Regards,

Tia

Tia Mitchell

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Washington Correspondent

Cell: [REDACTED]

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<https://myaccount.ajc.com/ajc/preference>

From: Kara Richardson <kmrichardson@law.ga.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 5:20 PM
To: Mitchell, Tia (AJC-Atlanta) <Tia.Mitchell@ajc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Info on 6/2 Hearing and 5/31 Arrests

Hi Tia,

Just saw your article [here](#) and thought it might be helpful to send some information about Friday's First Appearance hearing to potentially share the other side of the story. I've also sent this info to Greg and Jozsef.

The judge granted bond based upon all of the facts that he heard in the case.

The State discussed evidence of:

WHAT THEY DO: Organizing and supporting non-profits and protests. For example, non-profits include food for the hungry and a bail fund. The protests include demonstrating after the murder of George Floyd. While all of this is going on, they are also conducting unlawful activity by supporting violence and property damage.

July 5, 2020 – Demonstrations regarding the George Floyd murder. During peaceful demonstrations, a small group broke off and attacked DPS headquarters, culminating with a Molotov cocktail being thrown into the building and two people going to the hospital. The individual arrested and a person with him have financially and operationally been connected to this group.

July 3, 2022 – 10 people were walking down the road in all black. They approached Ebenezer Baptist Church, vandalized the church, and left. They split into two groups, changed into normal clothing, and removed their masks. The individuals who did this are members of the Defend the Forest group.

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March 5, 2023 – These individuals organized a concert in the DeKalb County forest. They publicized it as a concert. Unbeknownst to many concerned goers, a group of 100-150 individuals broke off, dressed in all black, and carried shields, weapons, and riot gear and began marching through the woods approximately ¾ of a mile. They attacked police officers who were forced to retreat because

they were outnumbered 10:1. The group set fire to equipment and attempted to set fire to footing that holds up power lines. After burning everything in sight, the group went back to the field, changed clothes, and attempted to blend into the peaceful concert goers.

Numerous other acts:

- Posted information about judges and police officers online along with personal information
- Have gone to the houses of court officials

HOW DO WE KNOW:

1. Finances show us this. The Network for Strong Communities uses a financial accounting platform that records some of their transactions.

Unbeknownst to people donating to the bail fund, food fund, and other laudable funds, another fund was established known as the Forest Justice Defense Fund. Some of the funds that were donated for legitimate purposes were routed to the Forest Justice Defense Fund. The Forest fund has been used to support those occupying the forest, doing violence against others property – and we can see that in the finances. Over \$237,000 has been spent supporting the occupation of the DeKalb Woods and the violent acts surrounding it. This \$237,000 is controlled by the three defendants.

The bail fund is also used as retention. Arrested protestors: if you don't align yourself with us, we will withdraw all financial support.

2. Search warrants corroborate this. Search warrant revealed extremist writings, justification of violence against people, government, property, and religious officials.

3. And the documents aren't new. Law enforcement conducted trash pulls for a long time. Numerous pieces of evidence were collected that demonstrate that they are running the Defend the Forest operation, but one in particular stands out, and it is a diary: "Radicalize liberals with subversive materials without using state solutions."



Kara Richardson
Communications Director
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40 Capitol Square SW

From: [Kara Murray](#)
To: [Isenhour, Andrew](#)
Subject: SB 63 Complaint, PI & Hearing Notice
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:12:59 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Hearing Notice.pdf](#)
[Complaint.pdf](#)
[PI Motion + Brief.pdf](#)

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Passing along as an FYI. A hearings been set for 6/28 at 3:30 PM.



Kara Murray
Communications Director
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Executive Office
[REDACTED]
kmurray@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: [Kara Murray](#)
To: [Isenhour, Andrew](#)
Subject: SB 63 Litigation
Date: Friday, July 12, 2024 3:55:29 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Barred Business PI doc..pdf](#)

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PI issued in SB 63 litigation today.



Kara Murray
Communications Director
Office of the Attorney General Chris Carr
Executive Office
[REDACTED]
kmurray@law.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Law
40 Capitol Square SW

From: [Mary McCord](#)
To: [Kemp, Brian](#); kbottoms@atlantaga.gov
Cc: [Carr, Christopher](#); cwright@gsp.net; paul.howard@fultoncountyga.gov; rbryant@atlantaga.gov; tgriffin@atlantaga.gov
Subject: Unlawful militia activity in Atlanta tomorrow and in December
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:29:53 PM
Attachments: [ICAP Letter to Georgia and Atlanta officials.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear state and local officials,

I write to you from the Institute of Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) at Georgetown Law to advise you of the mobilization of the III% Security Force and other unlawful militias planning to take up armed "defensive positions" at a rally at the capitol tomorrow, as well as another armed march planned for December. We have been monitoring unlawful militia activity pre- and post-election and working with state and local officials to protect their communities while preserving constitutional rights. The planned activity appears to be in violation of several provisions of Georgia law. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you.

--

Mary B. McCord
Legal Director and Visiting Professor of Law
[Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection](#)
Georgetown University Law Center
[REDACTED] (o) [REDACTED] (c)

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