March 14, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

The integrity of our elections and our voting process is very important and vital to our system of democracy. The Green Lake County District Attorney’s Office takes these matters very seriously.

The Green Lake County District Attorney’s Office is in receipt of a referral from the Racine County Sheriff’s Office and specifically, reports from Lt. Michael Luell requesting criminal charges against a Wisconsin Elections Commission (“WEC”) Member, Secretary Marge Bostelmann who is a resident of Green Lake County, Wisconsin. Specifically, the referral requests charges for alleged criminal acts arising out of actions taken by the WEC in providing guidance regarding Special Voting Deputies (SVDs) in care facilities during elections held in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In reviewing this referral for criminal charges, I have received and reviewed the following:
1. All of the information provided by the Racine County Sheriff’s Office to include all documents referenced in the “Voting Integrity Index”
2. Information contained on a flash drive submitted by the Racine County Sheriff’s Office
3. Additional information requested of the Racine County Sheriff’s Office by the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office
4. Letter brief and accompanying documents submitted by Attorneys Mastantuono and O’Neill, outside counsel specially appointed by the Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel for the five members of the WEC
5. Relevant statutory and case law
6. Memorandum prepared by ADA Matthew Westphal

To be specific, the only individual referred to my office for potential criminal charges is Marge Bostelmann based upon the fact that she resides in my jurisdiction. Any requests for criminal charges against other individuals, either members of the WEC or other citizens associated with this investigation are outside of my jurisdiction. It is my understanding that referrals were made to four other counties within which the other 5 of the 6 WEC commissioners reside. It is my understanding that charges were also referred to the Racine County District Attorney’s Office for other citizens and that the Racine County District Attorney’s Office declined to
prosecute. It is my understanding that Milwaukee County has declined to prosecute two WEC members who reside within their jurisdiction.
Based upon my review of the facts and law, I decline to issue criminal charges as I do not believe that there is sufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt at trial that a crime was committed.