

Statement of Facts

I am filing this complaint to request an investigation into the alleged misuse of taxpayer-funded government resources and official authority by members of the Lee County Sheriff's Office during the 2025-2026 Lee County Sheriff election campaign.

I was a candidate for Sheriff of Lee County, Alabama during the 2025-2026 election cycle while Sheriff Jay Jones was the incumbent Sheriff and opposing candidate in the Republican primary election.

In October 2025, prior to any public announcement regarding my candidacy, I met privately with Sheriff Jones as a professional courtesy to inform him of my intention to run for Sheriff. At the time of that meeting, my intentions were not public knowledge and were known only to close family members and a small number of trusted friends. Sheriff Jones made the decision during that meeting to terminate my employment immediately.

From the beginning of the campaign, numerous Sheriff's Office employees expressed concern and fear of retaliation or retribution if they were perceived as supporting me, communicating with me, associating with me, or otherwise being connected to my campaign in any way. Multiple employees advised me they were fearful of negative consequences within the agency if their support became known. During the campaign, it was also widely known within the agency that, at the direction of Sheriff Jones, a "list" was allegedly being maintained of deputies and employees suspected of supporting me or my campaign. Furthermore, I received information that the personal social media accounts of deputies and employees were being monitored to determine whether they interacted with me, my personal social media accounts, or my campaign page.

Additionally, during the course of the campaign, I received information from multiple individuals with knowledge of the Verizon Fleet GPS system utilized by the Lee County Sheriff's Office that a geofence had allegedly been established around my residence.

I was informed that the purpose of the geofence was to identify, monitor, and/or track Sheriff's Office deputies or county vehicles that came near or visited my residence during the campaign period. I was further informed that notifications and/or monitoring activity associated with the geofence were intended to identify employees perceived as associating with or supporting me politically.

The Verizon Fleet GPS system is a taxpayer-funded governmental resource utilized by the Lee County Sheriff's Office for official fleet management, operational, and law enforcement purposes. Based upon the information provided to me, I do not believe there was any legitimate law enforcement, public safety, or governmental purpose for establishing a geofence around the residence of a political opponent during an active election campaign.

If true, the alleged use of the Verizon Fleet system appears to constitute the use of public resources and official authority for political or personal purposes unrelated to any legitimate governmental function. Additionally, if employees were monitored or identified based upon

perceived political association or support for a political challenger, such conduct would undermine public trust and create a coercive environment within the agency.

I believe the conduct described herein may constitute a violation of Ala. Code § 36-25-5(c), regarding the use of public equipment, facilities, materials, labor, or other public property for private or political purposes. I further believe the conduct may implicate Ala. Code § 36-25-5(a), regarding the use of official position or office for personal or political benefit.

I respectfully request that the Alabama Ethics Commission investigate the following:

1. Whether a geofence was created around my residence within the Verizon Fleet GPS system during the campaign period.
2. Who created, authorized, approved, modified, monitored, or received notifications associated with the geofence.
3. Whether any legitimate governmental or law enforcement purpose existed for the geofence.
4. Whether public resources or official authority were utilized for political, personal, or campaign-related purposes.
5. Whether employees of the Lee County Sheriff's Office were monitored, identified, or subjected to scrutiny based upon perceived political association or campaign support.
6. Whether any records, reports, audit logs, notifications, or related Verizon Fleet data should be preserved or reviewed as part of this investigation.

I am willing to fully cooperate with any investigation conducted by the Alabama Ethics Commission and provide additional information, witness names, or supporting documentation as requested.