

**FYI. Filed**

2 messages

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Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 5:14 AM

Ballis filed criminal defamation charges against Aaron Hughston which are now at the State Attorney General's office and have been assigned to an investigator. We have been in close contact with Hailey's prosecuting attorney, Matt Fredback, as the case has traveled from Bellevue Marshal's Office to Idaho State Police and now the State Attorney General's office. The investigator from the AG's office contacted us last week. Hughston is still claiming that Ballis lied and that charges were never filed. This is obviously false. We also filed a civil lawsuit and began with a cease and desist letter to him and members of his team.

There have been so many acts of defamation in the form of slander and libel that it is hard to discern how much we address and how much we rise above. It is really difficult to not get in the weeds with it all. So much of their attacks are very personal and include our children. We shared our press release with all local newspapers and are keeping them informed with where we are in the process. We will be doing a text blast soon and have 2400 postcards we are hand writing to the community. We continue to share the following:

1. Aaron Hughston is working in close tandem with Leslie Manookian, Eric Parker, Brian Almon (Idaho Freedom Foundation), Sarah Lurie and Heather Lauer. They are claiming that Morgan has political motives beyond Sheriff and is trying to draw attention at the state level. This is false. Morgan has done work at the state level and they see this as a threat as the only democratic Sheriff in the state.
2. I (Desi) had to flee the state for a medically-necessary abortion in February. Hughston has drawn attention to our situation indicating we "purposely killed our baby to get pity votes." I have heard this from numerous community members that have had Hughston, his wife [REDACTED] and daughter knock on their door and share this info among many other horrible accusations.
3. Aaron Hughston has **never** been a fully certified police officer. He has only been a volunteer reservist and is trying to make the community believe otherwise. He was simply a volunteer reserve deputy on paper. This means he did not work patrol or conduct investigations. This is key for the public to understand.
4. Hughston's team has been intimidating local businesses that displayed a campaign sign in support of us. So far, these businesses have stood strong, but we had 1 business ask us to take our sign down to stop the harassment.

This is the statement that was posted to our campaign page:

My opponent has made the conscious decision to run his campaign by smearing me personally. I would normally ignore these tactics, but he has involved my wife & children, including some of the most severe lies & distortions I have ever heard. This is where I draw the line. We will correct these falsehoods while maintaining our commitment to a clean & respectful campaign.

Let's be clear, my opponent's strategy is to distract from his lack of real law enforcement experience, leadership abilities, or policy positions by resorting to personal attacks. These tactics starkly contrast with the ethical standards expected of anyone in law enforcement, particularly a Sheriff, who must uphold principles of fairness, privacy, & ethical conduct. Recklessly defaming a political opponent is unbecoming of a Sheriff's sworn oath.

We will not stoop to these tactics or dignify them with the same. Instead, we will continue focusing on improving the safety & welfare of Blaine County residents. We remain dedicated to running a campaign based on our record & the positive impact we have made together. I invite you all to stand with us in rejecting these divisive tactics. Let's show that our community values integrity, truth, & positive leadership. Together, we can ensure that our campaign remains focused on the future & the well-being of every resident of Blaine County.

👉 Thank you for your continued support & belief in our shared vision. Let's keep moving forward, stronger together.

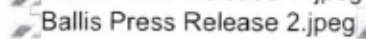

I am attaching our press release below. We fully anticipate their defamatory tactics to multiply in the days/weeks to come as the election gets closer. Please know that Morgan is always willing to speak to community members directly and answer any questions they may have. We are confident that our community sees through these malicious tactics.

Morgan's Campaign Phone Number: 208-721-5516

Thank you!

Desi

 Ballis Press Release 1 .jpeg

 Ballis Press Release 2.jpeg  Ballis Press Release 3.jpeg