



# Sheridan County Sheriff

Deputy Report for Incident 220818S05

Nature: Election Code V  
Location:

Address: Sheridan and Johnson Counties, WY

Offense Codes: VLLW  
Received By: M Mathews      How Received: O      Agency: SCSO  
Responding Officers: B Hill  
Responsible Officer: B Hill      Disposition: PEN 12/20/22  
When Reported: 12:56:13 08/18/22      Occurred Between: 12:56:13 08/18/22 and 12:56:13 08/18/22

Assigned To:      Detail:      Date Assigned: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*  
Status:      Status Date: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*      Due Date: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*

Complainant: 20567  
Last: Windsor      First: Henry      Mid: Todhunter  
DOB:      Dr Lic:      Address:  
Race: W      Sex: M      Phone:      City: Sheridan, WY 82801  
Alert Codes:

## Offense Codes

Reported:      Observed:  
Additional Offense: VLLW Violate State Licensing laws

## Circumstances

Responding Officers:      Unit :  
B Hill      306  
Responsible Officer: B Hill      Agency: SCSO  
Received By: M Mathews      Last Radio Log: 12:56:20 08/18/22 CMPLT  
How Received: O SO Officer Req      Clearance: FBR Filed By Records  
When Reported: 12:56:13 08/18/22      Disposition: PEN Date: 12/20/22  
Judicial Status:      Occurred between: 12:56:13 08/18/22  
Misc Entry:      and: 12:56:13 08/18/22

Modus Operandi:      Description :      Method :

## Involvements

(THIS INFORMATION IS FURNISHED UPON  
AUTHORIZED REQUEST. IT IS TO BE  
TREATED AS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL  
MATTER AND IS NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED  
OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY UNLESS SO  
AUTHORIZED.) 01/17/23

Date	Type	Description
------	------	-------------

## Narrative

### Election Mailer Violation

On 8/18/2022 Deputy Hill was assigned to investigate allegations of election code violations brought forth by Tod Windsor.

Deputy Hill was provided a copy of the Election Code Violation Complaint form, a political based mailer card and a screen shot of a partial list of currently registered Wyoming Political Action Committees (PAC).

The allegations, in summary, alleged the sender of the political mailer, Wyoming in Name Only (WINO) was not a legally registered PAC in violation of WSS 22-25-101(b). The complaint further alleged the political mailer sent out was a violation of WSS 22-25-102(a) as it was a donation to a political party's campaign. The complaint also alleged a violation of WSS 22-25-106, as the contribution was not made by a registered PAC, and was not part of a candidate's or parties' campaign expenditures report.

In reviewing the attached mailer, Deputy Hill noted the mailer was paid for by Wyoming in Name Only (WINO) PAC, 30 North Gould Street, Sheridan, WY 82801. A searched of 30 North Gould Street, determined it was a "ghost address" commonly used for undetectable business practices and related to several reported scams. Deputy Hill searched Wyoming Political Action Committees but did not find Wyoming in Name Only (WINO) was listed on the Wyoming Secretary of State Elections website as a registered PAC. On 8/22/2022, Deputy Hill spoke with Ross (NFI) with Wyoming Secretary of State Elections Office and learned WINO was not a Wyoming registered PAC nor was it on the Federal PAC list.

On 8/22/2022, Deputy Hill went to Alpha Graphics in Sheridan, WY. Deputy Hill was advised the political mailer had not been printed by them, nor did it appear to be the work of anyone else in the Sheridan area. On the same date, Deputy Horsely took the mailer to the Sheridan Post Office and asked if there was any information that would assist in determining the date the mailer was mailed, from where or whom. Deputy Horsely was informed the Sheridan office would contact the Denver, CO office and advise when they had more information.

On 8/23/2022 Deputy Hill received an email from the local Sheridan Post Office. The message, in part, advised the Political Mail Office would not release any information about the mailer in question unless ordered to do so.

On 8/23/2022, Deputy Hill received an email from Deputy County Attorney Clint Beaver. Attached to the email was an Elections Cody Violation Complaint filed by Laurie Bratten. The complaint was received by the Sheridan County Clerk's Office on 8/19/2022. In summary, the complaint alleged several violations (9) of Wyoming State Statutes pertaining to political election mailer sent out referencing her, Laurie Bratten. Also attached to the complaint were two political mailers, one claiming to be from WINO and another sent out by "friends of Cyrus Western". See the attached Code Violation Complaint and two political mailers for specific details. Deputy Hill determined the WINO mailer attached to Laurie's complaint was the same political mailer Tod Windsor had filed a complaint about.

In reviewing the two mailers, Deputy Hill noted the postage area of the two mailers were similar, both mailers stated "PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID MS". On 8/25/2022 Deputy Hill contacted Chris Lucas with the United States Postal Inspector's Office in Cheyenne, WY. Deputy Hill explained the aforementioned election code violation complaints and the WINO mailer that had been sent to

Sheridan County residents. Chris advised he should be able to determine what printing house printed the mailers and advised a subpoena or search warrant to the same should be able to produce the name of the party responsible for paying for the mailer in question. On 8/25/2022 Deputy Hill received an email from Chris stating the mailer in question had been mailed by Consolidated Direct Mailing in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On 8/30/2022 Deputy Hill contacted Consolidated Direct Mail and spoke with Cody Fraughton. Deputy Hill learned Consolidated Direct Mail had in fact mailed the mailers in question. Cody advised Consolidated Direct Mail had only mailed the mailers as they are a mailing house, not a printing company. Cody told Deputy Hill the mailers had been printed by West Wind Litho in Salt Lake City, Utah. Cody stated the West Wind job number for the mailer was 21570 and the mailers were titled "Howdy Piece".

On 8/30/2022 Deputy Hill contacted Janene Openshaw with West Wind Litho in Salt Lake City, Utah. Janene confirmed West Wind Litho had printed the "Howdy" mailers in question, 7138 mailers in total. Janene advised the client who had ordered the mailers was Majority Strategies based out of Jacksonville, Florida and the contact person for the order was Jared Stimson.

On 8/31/2022 Deputy Hill left a message for Jared Stimson with Majority Strategies asking him to call Deputy Hill. Deputy Hill left another message for Jared Stimson on 9/8/2022 and left a message with the Majority Strategies main business line requesting a phone call back. On 9/9/2022 Deputy Hill filled out a "contact" request on the Majority Strategies website requesting to be contacted by someone within the company to discuss an election mailer designed by their company.

On 9/12/2022 Jared Stimpson returned Deputy Hill's phone call and left a voice mail. Deputy Hill was able to speak with Jared by phone on 9/13/2022. Jared advised he did not recall the WINO mailer off hand and stated he would have to look up the project. Jared referred Deputy Hill to the CEO of Majority Strategies, Brett Buerck. Upon ending the call with Jared, Deputy Hill again called Majority Strategies and requested a call from Brett in regards to obtaining client information pertaining to the WINO mailer.

On 9/13/2022 at approximately 1215 hrs, Deputy Hill received a call from Majority Strategies CEO, Brett Buerck. Deputy Hill explained he was investigating the allegations of election code Wyoming State Statute violations. Deputy Hill further explained the trail of the WINO political mailer had led back to Majority Strategies. Brett advised Deputy Hill would need to provide Majority Strategies with a subpoena or court order to obtain any client or other information pertaining to the WINO mailer.

On 9/13/2022, Deputy Hill applied for and was granted a search warrant (See attached) for Registered Agents Inc. located at 30 North Gould Street in Sheridan, WY. The warrant requested client, billing, mailing and any other information pertaining to Wyoming In Name Only AKA: WINO. Deputy Hill served the search warrant on 9/14/2022 at approximately 0925 hrs to Leanne Moss at Registered Agents Inc. Upon an initial search, Leanne advised there was no client or other information under the name Wyoming In Name Only or WINO. Leanne advised she would search further into the system and contact Deputy Hill if she was able to locate any information pertaining to WINO. On 9/14/2022 Deputy Hill received a call from Leanne stating she had not been able to locate any client information at all for WINO or Wyoming In Name Only within the Registered Agents Inc records.

On 9/14/2022 Deputy Hill applied for and was granted a search warrant (see attached) for records pertaining to client, billing, mailing and other information held by Majority Strategies for a political mailer sent out by Wyoming In Name Only, AKA WINO, titled "Howdy Piece" printed by West Wind Litho (job 21570). On 9/14/2022 at approximately 1035 hrs, Deputy Hill left a message for Majority Strategies CEO Brett Buerck requesting an email address to send a digital copy of the warrant to and advising Deputy Hill would also be sending a printed copy of the warrant to Majority Strategies at the address he provided Deputy Hill the previous day. Deputy Hill did mail a copy of the search warrant to Majority Strategies on 9/14/2022.

On 9/19/2022 at approximately 1104 hrs, Deputy Hill called (904) 567-2008, the phone number Deputy Hill had previously spoken with Brett Buerck on, requesting an email address to send a digital copy of the search warrant to. Deputy Hill provided his email and the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office phone number in the voice mail requesting to be contacted.

On 9/26/2022 Deputy Hill called and left Brett Buerck another message. Deputy Hill advised he had not received any of the records outlined in the search warrant Deputy Hill mailed on 9/14/2022 and requested a phone call from Brett to discuss the matter. On the same date, Deputy Hill mailed another copy of the search warrant and a letter by certified mail to Brett Buerck, requesting the information requested within the search warrant be provided within a timely manner.

On 10/11/2022 Deputy Hill received a voicemail from Attorney Ryan Healy. Ryan advised he had been retained by Majority Strategies and wanted to speak with Deputy Hill about the search warrant Deputy Hill had attempted to serve on them. Deputy Hill returned Ryan's call and left a message for him on 10/11/2022 at approximately 0925 hrs.

On 10/20/2022 Deputy Hill received a call from Ryan. Deputy Hill explained the WINO case to Ryan and the basis for the search warrant. Ryan and Deputy Hill discussed the matter and Deputy Hill agreed an invoice from Majority Strategies showing the amount paid for the "Howdy Piece", a client name and contact information should fulfill the requirements of the scope of the search warrant.

On 10/20/2022. Deputy Hill received an email from Ryan containing an attachment with an invoice from Majority Strategies with billing information to Wyoming In Name Only (WINO) PAC. Deputy Hill noticed the product and delivery was for "Western WY attack howdy" and showed a total of 7118 pieces had been ordered for a total amount of \$5,338.50.

Also contained within the email attachment was a digital copy of a cashier's check (0903404369) and an envelope addressed to Majority Strategies. The cashier's check was from Wells Fargo in Gillette, WY. The remitter name on the check was William Novotny and the amount of the cashier's check was for \$5,388.50 total. The date on the cashier's check was September, 27, 2022. The envelope addressed to Majority Strategies did not have a sender's name, only a return address of PO Box 175, Big Horn WY 82833. The postal date on the envelope was faint but appeared to be 27 Sep 2022 PM.

On 10/20/2022, Deputy Hill contacted USPS Inspector Chris Lucas. Deputy Hill requested information pertaining to P.O. Box 175 in Big Horn, WY. later that same afternoon, Deputy Hill received an email from Chris with an attached USPS report. The report indicated the renter of P.O. Box 175 in Big Horn, WY was

Cyrus Western.

On 11/17/2022 Deputy Hill spoke with Cyrus Western by phone. Deputy Hill asked Cyrus if he was aware of the WINO PAC mailers. Deputy Hill advised Cyrus he had investigated the origins of the WINO mailer. Deputy Hill advised Cyrus the return address on the envelope used to pay for the mailer was his address. Deputy Hill then asked Cyrus if he was involved with the WINO Political Action Committee. Cyrus stated Well, I appreciate and look, hey, I really fully appreciate you're trying to do your job and so, I can appreciate and respect that, but... I just, um, I want to speak/chat with my attorney and if I'm going to chat with you, I want to kinda just have him there, so if you do have questions. I'm out of town, I won't be back until like Sunday night. Um, so ya know maybe at some point in a couple of weeks, might be able to come in and chat. You're more than welcome to reach out to my attorney, now if you'd like. So, Anyway, I'm not trying to be a combative jerk but just, process wise. Deputy Hill explained he understood Cyrus's position wanting his attorney present and advised Deputy Hill would set time aside when he and his attorney were available to meet with Deputy Hill and the call was ended. (See attached phone call)

Deputy Hill determined the only William Novotny in Wyoming (per Wyoming Driver's Licenses) was William "Bill" Novotny who resides in Buffalo, WY. Deputy Hill further determined Bill Novotny was currently elected as a Johnson County Commissioner. On 12/15/22 Deputy Hill called the phone number listed for Bill Novotny's Johnson County Commissioner page, (307) 620-2642. The call was answered by a generic voicemail for the telephone number. Deputy Hill left a message identifying himself and requesting Bill call Deputy Hill back. On 12/16/2022 Deputy Hill called and left another message requesting Bill call Deputy Hill back. Deputy Hill also called (307) 684-7555, the Johnson County Commissioner's Office and left a message requesting a call back from Mr. Novotny. As of 12/19/2022 Bill Novotny had not called Deputy Hill back.

See supplemental reports for further information

Attachments

Case Status

Sent for review for prosecution

Report prepared by Deputy Hill

---

## Supplement

### Interview - Chris Wages

On the afternoon of 1/3/2023, Deputy Hill received a call from Chris Wages. Chris advised he represented Bill Novotny and was calling Deputy Hill on behalf of Bill.

Chris advised Deputy Hill that Bill had not made any specific statements about the matter to him or asked Chris to relay any specific information. Chris told Deputy Hill he believed if Bill were to make a statement, it may be in similar to the fact that Bill operates a campaign consulting firm and that Cyrus Western may have been a client of Bill's consulting business, but did not have any personal involvement in the WINO PAC.

Deputy Hill requested Chris speak with Bill and ask if he was willing to sit down with Deputy Hill and make a statement, as the information Chris had given Deputy Hill was his speculation of Bill's possible response, not a statement from Bill himself. Deputy Hill asked Bill if he knew the name of Bill Novotny's consulting business. Chris was unable to remember the specific name of the but believed it was based on "historically significant numbers".

Deputy Hill researched political consulting businesses and William Novotny. Deputy Hill learned Novotny operates Future307 Consulting in Buffalo, WY. Deputy Hill then searched the Wyoming Security of State website, specifically Cyrus Western's campaign finances for the 2022 election year. Deputy Hill noted on 9/21/2022, Friends of Cyrus Western paid Future307 PAC \$5200.00 for consulting. In review, the check to majority Strategies was dated 9/27/2022 for the amount of \$5388.50 (\$188.50 more than the amount paid by Friends of Cyrus Western to Future307 - William Novotny).

Information by Deputy Hill

**Supplement**

1/4/2023

On 1/4/2023, Deputy Hill called and spoke with Cyrus Western. Deputy Hill asked Cyrus if he had spoken with his attorney and if he was willing to sit down and speak with Deputy Hill. Cyrus advised he understood Deputy Hill was just doing his job but he did not think it was best to answer any questions and advised Deputy Hill to contact his attorney, Kevin Kessner. The call was then ended.

Deputy Hill