

September 22, 2007

Marc Dann
Attorney General
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. Dann,

We write to ask you to determine if Sheriff Simon Leis of Hamilton County has engaged in illegal activity. We have three questions we want to raise. First, did Simon Leis violate state law by writing and sending by email on county computers a letter instructing Hamilton County employees who are his subordinates on how to vote in a county election? Second, did Simon Leis violate the law by having county-owned equipment such as vehicles and aircraft that were paraded in the Harvest Festival in Cincinnati decorated with signs urging citizens to vote a certain way in a county election? Third, has Simon Leis violated the law by threatening to sue and otherwise intimidating citizens who challenged his behavior in the first two cases?

The issues discussed above have all been reported in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* newspaper and in the *Cincinnati Beacon Blog*, a local on-line newspaper. We also understand that Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph Dieters was asked in writing by a citizen to investigate the behavior of Sheriff Leis but to the best of our knowledge has so far taken no action.

We the undersigned are residents of Hamilton County, Ohio. We write to you because we are concerned that if the allegations are true, they suggest a return to boss-style politics which threatens the democratic rights of civil servants, public employees and the citizens in general. No public official should ever tell any subordinate how to vote, least of all a public law enforcement officer. We ask you as the state's highest law enforcement official to look into the allegations against Sheriff Leis and to take the appropriate action in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sherry Baron
Justin Jeffre
Dan La Botz
Robert Park
Michael Patton
Michael Shryock
Suhith Wickrema

CC: Jennifer Brunner, Ohio Secretary of State