



Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild

P.O. Box 896, Vancouver, WA 98666

info@ccsodsg.com

Executive Board

ATTN: Anthony F. Golik
Clark County Prosecuting Attorney
1013 Franklin St
Vancouver, WA 98660

30 August 2021

The Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild was made aware of a [video](#) which was published by Evergreen Public Schools of their School Board Meeting which took place on May 25th, 2021. The video depicts Rachael Rogers, Evergreen School Board Member and Clark County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, making disparaging remarks about law enforcement. These remarks, made not just about law enforcement in general but, specifically, law enforcement here in Clark County, are inappropriate, degrading, and shameful.

Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rogers' statements include the following:

"Mostly, they [police] struggle around this idea of equity and how policing people of color happens in the real world."

"I don't like the optic of having police officers in our schools and the lack of trust that shows we have in our children."

"They [police] are not making our kids safe."

"They're [police] trained to look at people as threats. They're looking at our kids as threats."

"The fact of the matter is that policing in the United States is biased."

"We are sending our children of color into a school where they are seen as a threat, whether it's consciously or not by that SRO, they are seen as a threat, and as someone to protect against, not to protect."

Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rogers' emotionally charged and misplaced statements are nothing shy of denigrating, demoralizing, and infuriating to our members who work hard to protect our community, especially our children. A number of law enforcement officers throughout Clark County have involved themselves and volunteered their time with the Police Activities League program. PAL incorporates law enforcement officers, on their own time, to help mentor and encourage youth (particularly underprivileged youth) through athletic programs, reading events, and other activities in order to foster the development of those children and to build trust and healthy relationships between Clark County's youth and law enforcement officers through positive interaction. Our office walls are lined with "Thank You" cards and letters from children and students throughout Clark County.



Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild

P.O. Box 896, Vancouver, WA 98666

info@ccsodsg.com

Executive Board

While the Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild respects the right of an individual to their freedom of speech, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rogers was not speaking as an individual when she made those statements. Published on the Evergreen Public Schools website, Rachael Rogers' profile as a School Board Member lists her as "a Clark County Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney." In light of all this, it is the position of the Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild that Rachael Rogers made those disparaging remarks about law enforcement while acting as a representative of your office.

In 2018, you released a [Joint Statement on Hate](#), along with Sheriff Atkins. That statement, which you signed, includes the following: "We reject hate, bigotry, harassment, violence or the inciting of violence, and all actions intended to harm or intimidate others based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, or any other attribute which serves to marginalize people or groups of people." And: "We are committed to ensuring our respective criminal justice agencies maintain, both in policy and in practice, an unflinching standard of conduct in which we, as criminal justice professionals, enforce the law and maintain the public peace in an unbiased manner." Our members have striven to maintain professionalism and courtesy to all citizens, free from bias. When you and Sheriff Atkins signed the Joint Statement on Hate, the Sheriff was quoted as stating, "It's really no different than what we've been doing, and what we believed anyway."

Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rogers also made the following statement in the Evergreen Public School Board meeting:

"The first time we get a kid involved in the system, even if it's, you know, in the Clark County Juvenile Justice System, where they get to do diversion, it's still on their record, it still counts, they still go to jail sometimes, they still have to be involved with probation counselors, and that speaks loudly to how likely it is that we're going to see them again as an adult in the Criminal Justice System."

Mr. Prosecutor, after an arrest or a referral is made, law enforcement officers have nothing to do with the case unless requested by a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for follow-up or to testify in court. The onus lies solely with your office whether a juvenile is criminally charged, whether they get to do diversion, or what their sentencing recommendations are. You appointed Rachael Rogers as your Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, second only to yourself.

In order to achieve unflinching standards of conduct, Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys must maintain healthy and professional working relationships. Those relationships are imperative for us to successfully enforce the law and maintain the public peace in an unbiased manner. Those healthy and professional working relationships are entirely dependent upon mutual trust and respect. The blatant disrespect Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rachael Rogers has shown toward law enforcement, through her public statements, has caused an uproar amongst our membership and has further generated a seemingly deep-rooted rift in the trust between our offices.



Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild

P.O. Box 896, Vancouver, WA 98666

info@ccsodsg.com

Executive Board

We understand emotions can run high while debating important and sensitive matters relating to the health and safety of our children. This does not excuse Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rogers' misguided and reprehensible attacks on our local law enforcement officers. Her public statements have done more harm than good, further exacerbating tensions and eroding public trust and the relationships law enforcement officers diligently work to build within their community.

We, the Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild, request Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rachael Rogers' statements be carefully reviewed for any policy violations. We further request a public statement addressing your office's position in regard to bias against law enforcement officers.

We hope to foster a better working relationship between our offices, moving forward, including mutual respect and trust.

Respectfully,

The Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild Executive Board.

DSG President

DSG Vice President

DSG Secretary

DSG Sergeant at Arms

DSG Treasurer

DSG E-Board Member

DSG E-Board Member

DSG E-Board Member