



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

September 28, 2016

Michelle Branam  
Lincoln County District Attorney  
225 W. Olive Street, Room 100  
Newport, OR 97365

Re: Request to Investigate Criminal Allegations against Mayor Williams

Dear Ms. Branam:

In early October, 2015, the Lincoln City Attorney, Richard Appicello, requested that the Criminal Justice Division investigate various criminal allegations against the Mayor of Lincoln City, Don Williams and another individual named Ross Smith. The Lincoln City Attorney alleged that Mr. Williams had committed the crime of official misconduct in the first degree. He also alleged that Ross Smith committed the crimes of criminal impersonation, stalking, coercion, solicitation and the unauthorized practice of law.

The City Attorney provided documentation and recommendations of people we could interview. In addition to reviewing these materials, we conducted interviews of various individuals including Mayor Don Williams and his wife Debra Williams. We closely reviewed the laws relevant to Mr. Appicello's allegations in conjunction with the evidence derived from our investigation.

Based on our review of these allegations and our investigation, we have determined that there is an insufficient factual basis to pursue criminal charges against either Don Williams or Ross Smith in this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions, would like copies of our reports or would like to discuss the matter further.

Regards,

Matthew R. McCauley  
Sr. Assistant Attorney General  
Oregon Department of Justice  
Criminal Justice Division

cc: Keith Kilian – Lincoln City Chief of Police  
Richard Appicello – Lincoln City City Attorney