

**NGOs are (1) targeting US Citizen's political participation, (2) based on its private definitions of 'extreme,' 'hate,' 'anti-government,' 'white supremacy,' (3) admit to providing training & intelligence to Law Enforcement, (4) creating& publishing lists of US citizens & groups, while (5) acting as media/investigator & exercising 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment privileges.**

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November 22, 2022

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Jeff Tischauser, PhD  
[REDACTED]

**RE: Response to Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Mr. Tischauser:

I am in receipt of your email dated and received in our offices on November 15, 2022, in which you request certain information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (the "Act"), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq. A copy of your request is attached. Specifically, you requested the following:

I'm an investigator with the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization that monitors hate and extremism in the U.S. I'm looking into threatening messages received by school officials across the U.S. for a story to be published on our website. The story is in the public interest and involves public figures. We will not use the information received for commercial purposes.

I am requesting emails sent by Terry M. Newsome to school officials.

Newsome is a public figure. He is a IL chapter leader of Parents Involved in Education, which has a lot of crossovers with the anti-LGBTQ hate group Family Research Council. Newsome is a Republican precinct captain in Downers Grover, an elected position. Newsome has also appeared in a number of far-right media outlets and in local Chicago media over the last few years.

When judging the merits of my FOIA request, please carefully consider Newsome's public profile and the public interest in reporting a story about threats made to school officials.

Specifically, I am requesting the following information:

- All emails to/from Terry M. Newsome and Hank Thiele
- All emails to/from Terry M. Newsome to specific school board officials
- All emails to/from Terry M. Newsome to [boardmembers@csd99.org](mailto:boardmembers@csd99.org)

Please search in the following date range date range: August 1, 2020 to November 15, 2022

**District Response:** I am requesting an extension of time to respond to request, until November 30, 2022, as the requested records require examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt from disclosure under FOIA or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions.

To the extent you interpret this response as a denial of your request, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to: Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General, 500 South 2nd Street Springfield, Illinois 62701, Fax: 217-782-1396, E-mail: [publicaccess@atg.state.il.us](mailto:publicaccess@atg.state.il.us), Phone: 312-814-5526. If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of the denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you

**Jeff  
Tischauser** <[jeff.tischauser@splcenter.org](mailto:jeff.tischauser@splcenter.org)>  
to me

Mon, Nov 28, 4:30 PM (1 day ago)

Hi Mr. Newsome,

My name is Jeff Tischauser. I am a reporter for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Hatewatch. We are a civil rights non-profit based in Montgomery, Alabama. I received your message on LinkedIn, and the message sent to my personal email address about a FOIA request I submitted to District 99. I have not received the information requested as of right now. However, this email address is the best way to reach me for any comments you would like to send now or in the future.

[Hatewatch](#) is publishing a story on Wednesday about your political activities in Chicagoland. The point of this email is to provide you an opportunity to respond to the facts presented, as well as for me to ask you a few clarifying questions.

In the story, I make the following statements based on evidence I collected during my research:

- You operated a Gettr account that is now deleted
- You operate a public Facebook page and a Truth Social page using your name
- You are the leader of Illinois Parents Involved in Education
- You won a seat as a Republican precinct committeeperson in 2022
- You are attempting to organize a chapter of MassResistance in Illinois
- You say you attended the Stop the Steal rally and were present at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021
- You participate in events organized by the Proud Boys
- You have a history of attempting to shut down community events associated with LGBTQ inclusion, both through your online platforms and through in-person protest
- You shared a racist caricature online at least twice

Do you wish to comment on any of these above facts?

Here are my questions:

1. In your own words, what is the mission of Illinois Parents Involved in Education?
2. Why did you share a racist caricature in response to an article about Dennis Rodman and Brittney Griner? Why did you post the same image about a Black woman running for Congress?
3. Why did you like the following comment on Gettr: "More attacks on White Americans. And they wonder why we call them [n-word]s."? (the slur was used in the actual comment)
4. You are photographed giving the ok hand signal along with a man wearing the Proud Boys' uniform at a rally in Mount Prospect in September 2021. Were you aware this man was a member of the Proud Boys? Why did you use the ok hand signal in this photograph?
5. What is the extent of your relationship with the Proud Boys group?
6. What was your reaction to the vandalism at Uprising Bakery in Lake in the Hills, IL in July? Prior to the incident, you shared a link to the planned Proud Boys protest of the bakery.
7. In August, after the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago, you wrote on Gettr that AG Merrick Garland, "needs to be removed from the Earth." What do you mean by this?
8. In August, you made a comment on Facebook about an upcoming Drag Bingo event at your local library: "This event will not happen!!!!!!If it does we will overwhelm it with tons of protesters from multiple organizations. I promise." What multiple organizations were you referring to? What was the purpose of posting this message to Facebook?
9. Do you know anything about the bullet that was sent to the Downers Grove library?

I would also like to get your comment on the phone if you're available. Do you have time to talk tomorrow afternoon?

Thank you for your time,

**Jeff Tischauer, PhD** he/him/his

Sr. Research Analyst | Intelligence Project

Southern Poverty Law Center

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