

City of Stillwater Mayor Will Joyce



Covers Up Corruption Involving the City of Stillwater and the Payne County District Attorney's Office

The Payne County District Attorney's Office is Headlining the News Cycle Right Now, but we can not deny Stillwater City Administration's role in the corruption on display.

In 2019, former City of Stillwater Council Member, Darrell Dougherty, filed a complaint in district court against the City of Stillwater.

Mr Dougherty believes a small number of City Administrators and Officers have been harassing him and his family for around one decade.

Over the next year, audio transcripts and open records at City Hall will show that Mayor Joyce was notified of possible Physical Assault to Mr Dougherty and Sexual Assault to a prominent local business woman. The complaints were about three Stillwater Police Officers.

Emails will verify that Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations Special Agent Richard Brown turned reports and audio tapes over to the City of Stillwater and to Laura Thomas at the Payne County District Attorney's Office throughout the year of 2020 for further investigation of these complaints.

In November of 2020, both City Manager Norman McNickle and Payne County District Attorney Laura Thomas jointly made the alarming decision not to investigate these police officers.

Stillwater Police Chief Jeff Watts stated in a recorded conversation on June 17th, 2020, **"...we have never asked for an outside – we – we – I, in the 30 years, 29years I have been here, we have never asked, to my knowledge, for an outside investigator to come in to do an internal affairs."** Court ordered Audio Transcripts in possession of Stillwater City Administration.

Leading up to July of 2022, City Administration restricted the transparency Mr Dougherty was having with his elected officials and asked the District Judge for a Protective Order denying Mr Dougherty his rights to elected representation and open records.



Mayor Will Joyce

July 29

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I've received a few questions about a recent story from a website called "The Oklahoma Post." First off, I think it's important to note that this is not an established, reputable news source. The website seems to be owned and controlled by one of the people who has filed numerous claims about his various legal proceedings. The fact that this connection is not disclosed in the story (and is pretty carefully concealed overall) tells you all you need to know about the credibility and journalistic integrity of the publication.

That said, family law cases, especially those involving children, are messy. Very few conclude with everyone feeling like justice was done. I know that our court system is imperfect and difficult to understand. And I know that there are many legitimate examples of mistakes, delays, and bad outcomes. But I also know that the specific allegations in this story related to the Stillwater Police Department have been thoroughly investigated by internal and external parties, and there is no indication of any wrongdoing. If there were, prompt and appropriate action would be taken.

On July 29th, 2022, City of Stillwater Mayor Will Joyce posted the above to his Mayoral Facebook page.

In spite of a report from the OSBI that was never investigated, Mayor Joyce claimed that *"allegations in this story related to the Stillwater Police Department have been thoroughly investigated by internal and external parties, and there is no indication of any wrongdoing. If there were, prompt and appropriate action would be taken."*

Why would Mayor Joyce say this has been *"thoroughly investigated by internal and external parties"* when both the City of Stillwater and the District Attorney's Office had notified Mr Dougherty that there would be no investigation back in 2020?

On September 26th, 2022, Mr Dougherty filed Protective Orders against both Stillwater City Manager Norman McNickle and Payne County District Attorney Laura Thomas. When asked, Mr Dougherty stated, *"Clearly, my family would have benefitted from a Protective Order against these individuals if they can interfere with the Law Enforcement process and stop my family and friends from being protected from these crimes."*

In Protective Order hearings, PO-2022-275 and PO-2022-276, victims and witnesses to the sexual assault and physical assault allegations of these officers gave testimony under oath to Lincoln County District Judge THE HONORABLE EMILY J MUELLER that no Law Enforcement ever contacted any of them in regards to the incident.

Why would Mayor Joyce try to cover up this apparent collusion and corruption within City Hall and with the Payne County District Attorney's Office?

Why is our City Council continuing to allow this harassment to come out of our City Administration and for this direct interference to a family's right to protection?

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For tips regarding these crimes or any others involving Stillwater City Hall or the Payne County District Attorney's Office, please call **1-800-522-8017** or email **tips@osbi.ok.gov**