
Douglas County Sheriffs Violate First Amendment Rights in Shocking Raid Against Law-Abiding Couple

In a blatant assault on free speech, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, led by Major Matt Gray, unleashed a dozen armed deputies on Philip and Hilary Jacobs, a law-abiding couple, over a dubious "littering" warrant. The couple's alleged crime? Distributing flyers exercising their First Amendment rights, a move that has sparked outrage and raised questions about government overreach. The raid, which also targeted Michael Weaver with a bogus warrant, has left many wondering about the legality of this entire situation, especially as it appears to be motivated by the content of the flyers rather than any legitimate offense.

The situation took a darker turn with the involvement of judicial figures who appear complicit in this assault on free speech. Lauren Wallace, now a Superior Court Judge, reportedly abused her former position as an Assistant District Attorney by personally visiting Mr. Jacobs' workplace at Dyma prior to the raid taking place. This intimidating visit, far beyond the norm for a misdemeanor littering case, raises serious questions about her motives and whether she sought to suppress Jacobs' voice before the case even reached court.

Adding insult to injury, Judge Susan Camp imposed an exorbitant \$30,000 bond each on the Jacobs—a sum that dwarfs bonds typically set for felony offenses—indicating a deliberate attempt to punish their exercise of constitutional rights rather than address any legitimate public safety concern. Legal precedent point to the Georgia Supreme Court's decision in *Statesboro Publishing v. City of Sylvania* (1999), which clearly established that distributing informational flyers does not constitute littering. Despite this precedent, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and its judicial allies seem determined to bend the law to their will, evading transparency under the guise of ongoing investigations, with a total and complete media blackout of the entire situation. The Jacobs and Weaver have faced not only physical intrusion but also a barrage of legal hurdles, including Michael Weaver being forced into a fugitive status. Recent records request under the Georgia's Open Records Act appear to be attempting to stonewall the release of information, further fueling suspicions of a cover-up to protect politically motivated agendas.

Amid this troubling saga, hope emerges through the efforts of the Free Expression Foundation, a dedicated organization stepping in to defend the Jacobs and Weaver. The Foundation has provided critical legal support, challenging the county's actions and advocating for the restoration of their First Amendment rights., as well as filing a complaint against the sheriffs department and their sycophants on their behalf.

For those appalled by this blatant abuse of power and eager to support the fight for free speech, the Free Expression Foundation welcomes donations and further engagement at freeexpressionfoundation.org. As the case continues to unfold, it serves as a stark reminder of the need to protect individual liberties against overzealous authorities and the corrupt system we live in.



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