



October 28, 2020

Via Email & US Mail

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr:

By way of background, the Small Business in Transportation Coalition ("SBTC") is a 501(c)(6) non-profit transportation industry trade group, which promotes and protects the interests of small businesses in the industry. We encourage ethical business practices and support teamwork, cooperation, transparency, and partnerships among truckers, carriers, brokers, forwarders & shippers who seek to do business with the utmost integrity.

With over 15,000 company and individual trucker members nationwide, the SBTC has been watching with much interest and concern the events in Minneapolis surrounding the May 31st, 2020 violent attack on HAZMAT Driver Bogdan Vechirko by an out-of-control mob that unlawfully seized an interstate highway thereby violently interfering with interstate commerce in violation of the Federal Hobbs Act (18 U.S. Code § 1951. Interference with commerce by threats or violence). Despite this attack, no charges have been brought against any of these "peaceful protesters."

We note this mob was acting under the brand of a predominantly-Democrat movement called "*Black Lives Matter*." We also note that --according to the pictures of the vehicle operated by Mr. Vechirko, the tanker was carrying a placarded load, which means the load consisted of hazardous materials ("HAZMAT"). Despite the mob's unlawful seizure of --and tampering with --a Hazmat truck and the battery and unlawful detainment of a HAZMAT employee by violent protesters in violation of 49 U.S. Code § 5104, there has also been no prosecution under that statute.



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We note individuals associated with *Black Lives Matter* have exerted tremendous pressure on county officials to prosecute Mr. Vechirko since he was released from jail after his initial arrest in May, including sponsoring online petitions demanding same. We also note that according to www.bestplaces.net: *“in Hennepin County, MN 63.1% of the people voted Democrat in the last presidential election, 28.2% voted for the Republican Party, and the remaining 8.7% voted Independent. Hennepin county voted Democratic in the previous five Presidential elections.”*

According to www.insider.com: *“Donation records also show three contributions (by Vechirko) of around \$100 since 2018: one to President Donald Trump's re-election campaign, and two more to the Republican Party.”*

Comes now, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, a registered Democrat, nearly five months after the incident --and less than 2 weeks before the November 3, 2020 election, with a criminal complaint to appease his fellow Democrats who are thirsty for a hanging in Hennepin County, despite the fact that no one was injured in the incident except for Mr. Vechirko at the hands of the violent predominantly-black mob that pulled him from his truck and beat him. The prosecution of Mr. Vechirko is therefore not a matter of justice, but of *politics*. We believe that translates into public corruption.

As we understand it, Mr. Vechirko is a white Eastern European Ukranian immigrant pursuing the American dream. If we are right, this degree of public corruption is reminiscent of the USSR he was born in as opposed to the principles of law, order and attorney ethics that we espouse here in the United States of America. The SBTC is therefore writing to you to ask for a Federal Investigation into this matter by USDOJ's Public Integrity Unit and to determine if a **“Pattern and Practices”** investigation is now warranted insofar as violation of Mr. Vechirko's civil rights are concerned.

The SBTC has learned that a grassroots effort of truckers --including many who appeared for three weeks outside the White House in early May covered by mainstream media --is currently assembling and plans to ensure a significant number of trucks will be outside the court house at Mr. Vechirko's first court appearance on November 10th, 2020 to show solidarity. I do not know how long they intend to remain there.

It is clear that --but not for the fact that the county recklessly failed to prevent and terminate the illegal takeover of the interstate, this incident would never have happened. We contend that the state and its political subdivision had a duty and obligation to protect Mr. Vechirko under his 14th Amendment right to “equal protection of the law” and failed to do so. The county should therefore be absolutely ashamed of this prosecution, which is clearly grounded in political corruption offensive to DOJ's stated principles of public integrity and should immediately rescind these charges in the interest of justice.

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If Mr. Freeman chooses not to withdraw these charges, however, because he is trying to mitigate the political campaign to recall him (<https://www.recallfreeman.org>) and serve up Mr. Vechirko's head on a platter for his own political gain, then he should be advised that the trucking industry will not stand idly-by and allow this injustice to happen with impunity. He can therefore expect the SBTC and truckers will be taking this matter before the media and court of public opinion.

Sincerely,

/s/ JAMES LAMB
SBTC Executive Director

cc: USDOJ Civil Rights Section
USDOJ Public Integrity Unit
Mark Solheim, LARSON • KING, LLP
Kevin W. DeVore, DeVore Law Office, P.A.
Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman
Dan Allard, Prosecuting Attorney