

# The\_Scoggins\_Lette...

Done

The Anonymous Sworn Firefighters of the City of Seattle  
03/03/2023

Seattle Mayor, Bruce Harrell  
P.O. Box 94749  
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03/03/2023

The purpose of this letter is to express our concern regarding Seattle Fire Chief, Harold Scoggins. Our concern is based on presumed criminal activity and engagement, failure to uphold his sworn oath, failure to adhere to required Seattle City Official expectations, and involvement in conspiracy to commit spoilation. We believe that the included actions of Chief Scoggins have damaged the reputation of the Seattle Fire Department, diminished morale among its members (which has contributed to the staffing shortage across the City and has resulted in loss of life and property caused by longer response times) and marred the trust that the community holds in the Department. The damage that the City and the Fire Department have withstood directly from Chief Scoggins' actions may take decades to restore.

Included in the recent ruling on 01/13/2023 of Case Number 2:20-cv-00983 in the District Court of Western Washington, Fire Chief Scoggins was found to have deleted communication from his Department-issued cell phone, which was ordered to be preserved, regarding the Capitol Hill Occupied Protest. Federal Judge Thomas Zilly explains Chief Scoggins' excuse for deleting text messages "strains credibility." Though the investigation was opened on June 24, 2020 and a Litigation Holds order was placed on the information contained in text messages on Chief Scoggins' device on July 22, 2020, on October 8, 2020 (77 days later), Chief Scoggins took his device to an Apple Store and had a factory reset preformed, deleting all text messages held on the device. The City contends it became aware that text messages were missing from Chief Scoggins's phone in late February 2021, showing that Chief Scoggins did not immediately bring to City attention that he had deleted the messages.

*"The Court finds substantial circumstantial evidence that the city acted with the requisite intent necessary to impose a severe sanction and that the city's conduct exceeds gross negligence." Federal Judge, Thomas S. Zilly. (2023)*

United States District Court of Western Washington Order C20-0983 TSZ (Document 166 filed 01/13/2023) [Case 2:20-cv-00983-TSZ].

Content notwithstanding, the simple act of erasing or destroying of said messages constitutes a class C Felony.



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2:20-cv-00983-TSZJ.

Content notwithstanding, the simple act of erasing or destroying of said messages constitutes a class-C Felony:

"Every person who shall willfully and unlawfully remove, alter, mutilate, destroy, conceal, or obliterate a record, map, book, paper, document, or other thing filed or deposited in a public office, or with any public officer, by authority of law, is guilty of a class C felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both." (2023) RCW 40.16.010,

Washington State Legislature; Injury to Public Record.

Thought to have been contained in the deleted text messages is the information surrounding the Capitol Hill Occupied Protests, and City Official's support and encouragement of the protest.

The Capitol Hill Occupied Protest cultivated many crimes, including 5 separate shootings resulting in loss of life, sexual assaults, abductions, theft, vandalism, and property damage.

During the Capitol Hill Occupied Protest, Chief Scoggins - while on duty, and in uniform, actively supported the perpetrators of the civil unrest and provided support, acting in the capacity as a City Official. He ordered the removal of front-line emergency equipment from Fire Department vehicles and gave it to the people inside the "autonomous zone", this bypasses set protocols and directly puts patients in way of harm by removing trained personnel and placing undue burden on civilians to administer aid. Chief Scoggins also openly stated that he facilitated the movement of cement blockades into the street of the protest zone, this reckless act made it impossible for the Fire Department to come to the aid of those inside the zone. One Firefighter described the impact of this action, saying "it made us feel completely disempowered. We forcibly abandoned the citizens on the other side of those blockades. It delayed our ability to do our jobs and cost people their lives as a result."

(Seattle Firefighter, *Anonymous interview, personal communication*, 03/01/2023).

(2020, July 13). *Capitol Hill Occupied Protest*. Wikipedia Compiled 230 Credible Sources. Retrieved February 28, 2023, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitol\\_Hill\\_Occupied\\_Protest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitol_Hill_Occupied_Protest)

Chief Scoggins' support of the protest was open, and he was in communication with the organizers of the protest, including Raz Simone, the self-proclaimed "Warlord" of the Capitol Hill Occupied Protests. Raz Simone is now set to stand trial on sex trafficking and sex abuse charges. Chief Scoggins later openly spoke about his support and communication with the occupants of the Capitol Hill Occupied Protests, including Raz Simone, even after a video surfaced on YouTube showing Raz Simone distributing assault rifles to protestors. For simply knowing that



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spoke about his support and communication with the occupants of the Capitol Hill Occupied Protests, including Raz Simone, even after a video surfaced on YouTube showing Raz Simone distributing assault rifles to protestors. For simply knowing that there were guns inside the protest zone, the Fire Chief and Chief of Police should have coordinated effective planning for the removal of shooting victims, or any patients suffering an emergency inside the zone. The lack of a well-constructed plan under standard operating guidelines resulted in loss of life. This is illustrated in a video posted by Raz Simone showing the breakdown in communication and responding units inability to access the site quickly to provide medical treatment to injured citizens. This was a direct causation of Chief Scoggins' ineffective planning in this event. "There have been incidents inside the area and we've been communicating with the teams and working at handoff points and so that's been our plan up to this point but what we know is that's a limited plan, at best." Quote by Chief Harold Scoggins (2020, June 15); *Spears, M. (2020, June 15). City meets with organizers, stakeholders about reducing Seattle's CHOP footprint. Kiro 7 News.*

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/chaz-chop-protesters-occupying-portion-capitol-hill-give-area-new-name/WYBUTJ5C1JCWDJQLFS3PBFH5V4/>

Hoffman, A. (2021, January 19). Exclusive: Text Messages Show Coordination Between Seattle Officials and the "Warlord" of the 'Autonomous Zone'. *The Post Millennial.* [EXCLUSIVE: Text messages show coordination between Seattle officials and the 'warlord' of 'autonomous zone' | The Post Millennial | thepostmillennial.com](https://thepostmillennial.com/exclusive-text-messages-show-coordination-between-seattle-officials-and-the-warlord-of-autonomous-zone/)

Markovich, M. (2020, June 10). Police Make Allegation of Intimidation, Extortion Inside Capitol Hill's Autonomous Zone. *Komo News.* [komonews.com/news/local/police-make-allegations-of-extortion-inside-capitol-hills-autonomous-zone/](https://komonews.com/news/local/police-make-allegations-of-extortion-inside-capitol-hills-autonomous-zone/) [Raz Simone]. (2020, June 20). Raz Simone on Twitter [Video].

Twitter: <https://t.co/PMwxU9yEzd> / Twitter  
<https://mobile.twitter.com/RazSimone/status/1274541843779252229>

Local warlord raz hands out ar-15s to the citizens of chaz. YouTube. (2020, June 16). Retrieved March 2, 2023, from <https://youtu.be/gSAecJTjyII>

The title of Firefighter, in any city across America, is a recognized position of honor. We are entrusted to uphold the oaths of the Fire Department, to operate with the primary motive of being in service to others, and are held in high regard by the citizens we protect, often to the detriment of our own health and safety. In the same way, we hold each other accountable to these standards ensuring a high level of trust that is not betrayed. No one is held to a higher standard in these convictions than the Fire Chief. The people of the City of Seattle; whether they are



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standards ensuring a high level of trust that is not betrayed. No one is held to a higher standard in these convictions than the Fire Chief. The people of the City of Seattle; whether they are involved in a protest demonstrating their freedom of speech, are business owners investing our community, or any other member of the community wishing to live and work in our great city, they all rely on the Fire Department, namely the Fire Chief, to ensure their safety and the safety of their families. Chief Harold Scoggins neglected his sworn duties in a time of uncertainty, when the public needed and deserved the direction of a decisive Chief who would put his oath of office first and maintain his focus on the safety of the community, the members of the Fire Department, and of the protesters in the City of Seattle. His responsibility was to communicate with City Officials to direct focus and attention on the ability of fire suppression, rescue, and EMS to function as effectively as possible within the City and not have their access to the public limited. The failure to put those efforts first, resulted in the loss of lives and of many crimes taking place during the Capitol Hill Occupied Protests. The preservation of property and life is the cornerstone of the Fire Department and should be in the forefront of every decision the Fire Chief makes.

In recent years, several Seattle Firefighters have been sanctioned and investigated after performing good-natured acts or exercising their rights to Freedom of Speech, for this reason, we have chosen to remain anonymous, but we could not remain silent. Harold Scoggins has committed blatant and deliberate criminal acts and still holds the position of Seattle Fire Chief. There is a clear discrimination between the standards that City employees are held to, compared to City Officials.

We understand that Civil Lawsuits, like the one referenced above, do not apply to criminal charges. However, given the specific nature of Judge Zilly's ruling, there is a clear need for a full investigation by the King County Prosecutors Office to determine whether a crime was committed, and that any and all proper criminal charges are filed against the appropriate parties. In a quote from The Seattle Times, "U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly concluded last month that officials ignored the notifications, sending the so-called Hunters Capital lawsuit to trial on two of five claims and dismissing three others. In doing so, Zilly issued a blistering order that leveled crippling sanctions against the city for the deletion of tens of thousands of text messages from city phones sent between former Mayor Jenny Durkan, former police Chief Carmen Best, fire Chief Harold Scoggins and four other ranking city officials during the protests." Carter, M. (2023, February 15). *Seattle Settles CHOP Lawsuit After Judge Levied Sanctions Over Deleted Texts*. The Seattle Times, Law and Justice.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/seattle-settles-chop-lawsuit-after-judge-levied-sanctions-over-deleted->



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<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/seattle-settles-chop-lawsuit-after-judge-levied-sanctions-over-deleted-texts/>

It has already been established and accepted that messages were deleted (after being ordered to be preserved), Washington State law clearly outlines that as a crime. In Judge Zilly’s finding of spoliation, it is assumed that the content of those text messages are damaging to the City Officials involved. Now we are asking that a full investigation be opened, in order to determine what was deleted and bring to light the extent of any crimes that were committed by Chief Scoggins and other City Officials. As a part of this criminal investigation, the Court can compel a wireless carrier to produce the meta-data for the purposes of the investigation. Specifically of interest to the members of the Seattle Fire Department, are the communications between Fire Chief Scoggins, Mr. Raz Simone and (former) Mayor Jenny Durkan. We are aware this investigation could reveal additional crimes by other Seattle City Officials as well, and should it do so, we expect that ‘equal justice under the law’ be applied for all City of Seattle Officials, and those other officials be held accountable for their actions as well. We owe the citizens of the City of Seattle the truth about what happened during the Capitol Hill Occupied Protests and transparency regarding the communication between City Officials during that time.

“We engage with others to improve situations and strive to cause no harm. We live to the highest ethical standard of conduct, and perform our jobs with integrity, in recognition of the trust placed in us by the communities we serve.” – City of Seattle Workplace Expectations; City of Seattle Human Resources (n.d.). *City Workplace Values and Expectations*. Seattle.gov. Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <https://www.seattle.gov/human-resources/working-at-the-city/our-values>

We hereby demand that Seattle Fire Chief, Harrold Scoggins, be held accountable to the same standards that the City of Seattle requires of all employees, and to the law of Washington State, to reinstate the trust bestowed to the office he currently holds.

Signed,

The Anonymous Sworn Firefighters of the City of Seattle

