

November 9, 2023

CONFIDENTIAL

Via mail and email

Representative Jason Dockter

jddockter@ndlegis.gov

Re: Criminal Referral of Complaint Nos. 22-003 - 22-010

Dear Representative Dockter:

This letter is to notify you the Ethics Commission has made a criminal referral in the above referenced matters pursuant to its statutory obligation in N.D.C.C. § 54-66-08(2). At this time, the Commission believes its investigation has revealed information, based on the contents of the complaints, necessitating a criminal referral to the Burleigh County State's Attorney. The Commission's investigation to date has given rise to a belief that the complaints contain criminal allegations of using public office for a personal financial benefit. While the Commission has referred the matters for review as required by section 54-66-08(2), it makes no decision on whether criminal charges will be brought and leaves that determination to the reviewing state's attorney.

Although the Burleigh County State's Attorney is the agency with jurisdiction, the Commission is aware a conflict with that office exists and requested the matter be referred to an independent and unconflicted entity. The Commission has been informed by Burleigh County State's Attorney Julie Lawyer that McLean and Sheridan County State's Attorney, Ladd Erickson, has agreed to review the referral.

Pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 54-66-12(1), this letter notifying you of a referral is a confidential record as defined in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-17.1. If you have any questions during the process, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission's office.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Binstock
Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission