

From: [Kirk Allen](#)
To: gstar7332@yahoo.com
Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Media Questions
Date: Saturday, April 6, 2019 8:46:00 AM

Mr. Elliot,

Your recent publication made reference that school administrators, board members, and yourself are entitled to see a list of the “other concerned taxpayers” who were involved in a letter mailed out by Mr. Copas.

- **Can you point us to any journalistic standard that establishes an *entitlement* by you or anyone else for a member of the public to provide such information?**

You referenced in your recent publication that Mr. Copas was meeting with the Edgar County Watchdogs at K&H.

- **Do you have a problem with us meeting with people and seeking answers to our questions?**
- **You referenced “we” could have asked him last night, referring to Copas. Who is “we”?**
- **Can you provide any factual counter to the claims made by Mr. Copas in his letter that was mailed out?**

You sent a letter to a Mr. Kramer and stated:

“Just wondering if you would be returning candidate questionnaire. If you do, I think you should explain your arrest in 2010 for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. I have the arrest report and plan to use it. Will also forward to Edgar County boys. The narrative is quite interesting. I do have more than one copy and plan to be distributing.”

- **When you say “I have the arrest report and plan to use it”.**
- **What exactly does that mean?**
- **How do you plan to use this person’s arrest report?**

You also stated you were going to forward this information to the “Edgar County boys”.

- **Can you explain why you have never forwarded this information to the Edgar County Watchdogs as you said you would?**
- **Why would you, the owner of a newspaper, threaten to distribute a person’s arrest report that never resulted in any prosecution?**
- **Who were you planning on distributing this information to?**
- **Did you distribute this information to anyone?**

Mr. Kramer provided you a detailed response to issues you raised with him.

- **Are you going to publish the response provided to your questions?**

You filed Statement of Economic Interest documents that included confirmation you do

business with a unit of government that you are required to file such statement.

- Can you confirm your compliance with 65 ILCS 5/3.1-55-10(b) ?

You were informed that your published claim regarding our FOIA request being done at the request of Mr. Kramer was factually wrong.

- Are you going to print a retraction or correction to inform your readers of that error?

We have confirmation now that Administrators have taken trips to Lake of the Ozarks in both 2017 and 2018. One of those years was a 10-day venture. During the board meeting, the Board President stated that the board approved this action before the trip. Minutes and FOIA responses prove this to be false. We have also been informed that some of the Board members went on this trip. We are following up to confirm if that is true or not.

- Do you have any input on how the public should deal with a board member making a false statement during a public meeting?
- As a resident of the School District, do you find it appropriate for Administration and possible board members to be going on taxpayer-funded trips for 10 days to Lake of the Ozarks?

I would appreciate a response to these questions no later than the end of business day April 10th, 2019.

Depending on the responses provided we may have more questions that we will forward accordingly.

Thanks
Kirk Allen