

Kendall Countv Office of the Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

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Kendall County Sheriff's Office Completes Investigation of Oswego Township Highway Commissioner

On July 16th, 2015, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office received a complaint that Oswego Township Highway Commissioner Gary Grosskopf was involved in ongoing criminal conduct regarding alleged residency requirements for his elected office. The complainant stated Grosskopf was holding office and was not a resident of Oswego Township. The complainant further stated Grosskopf had not completed his duties as Oswego Township Highway Commissioner and was committing misconduct. The complaint alleged that Grosskopf was no longer a resident of Illinois and therefore he had vacated his elected office of Oswego Township Highway Commissioner. Detectives initiated an investigation into the matter. As the investigation was underway, the complainant made further allegations that Grosskopf had obtained a voter registration card while he was not a resident of Illinois.

During the investigation, detectives reviewed the duties of a Township Highway Commissioner. The core duties were to complete administrative work, maintain roads and bridges, manage personnel, and maintain public relations. Detectives were unable to locate any supporting evidence that Grosskopf had not completed his statutory duties as Highway Commissioner. Detectives also obtained information from the United States Post Office, Illinois State Police, and the Illinois Secretary of State's Office that assisted in this investigation. Detectives were able to determine that Grosskopf pays rent for his Oswego residence, receives mail at his Oswego residence, has a vehicle registered to the address for his residence, and possesses an Illinois

The public is reminded that criminal defendants are presumed innocent until the government is able to prove its charges in court beyond a reasonable doubt.

driver's license with the Oswego address. All of the information obtained by detectives supports that Grosskopf was a resident of Oswego, Illinois. The following applicable Illinois Compiled Statutes were reviewed which included Misconduct of Officers (60 ILCS 1/55-37), Resignation and Vacancies (10 ILCS 5/25-2), and Perjury (720 ILCS 5/32-2). Based on the facts from the investigation there is not sufficient probable cause to support criminal charges. The investigation and conclusion was shared with the Kendall County State's Attorney's Office and Kendall County Clerk's Office.

Kendall County Clerk Debbie Gillette reviewed the issues surrounding elections. Gillette stated, "As the designated Election Authority, I have received a copy of the citizen complaint regarding the validity of the Oswego Township Highway Commissioner's residency and voter registration status. An internal review of our records has indicated that there was no compelling evidence to suggest Mr. Grosskopf was in violation of residency requirements. I am in agreement with the findings presented by the Sheriff's Office and I'd like to thank them for their due diligence in thoroughly investigating this matter."

"After extensively reviewing the findings of our investigation, we found nothing criminal took place that would result in charges being brought forward against Mr. Grosskopf," commented Kendall County Sheriff Dwight Baird. "I am disappointed that this type of behavior erodes the public trust in their elected officials but no laws were broken that would result in further activity from our office."

A copy of the police report including the investigative reports can be found on the Kendall County Sheriff's Office website. The address is <u>http://www.co.kendall.il.us/sheriff/</u>.