

To: Colorado Newsline

From: U.S. Election Integrity Plan

Official Release in Response to CO Newsline Article published Feb. 13, 2022

“Jan. 6 videos said to show Colorado election denier Shawn Smith clashing with police Activist on Thursday called for Colorado secretary of state to hang.”

Beginning August 2021, a string of articles by Editor Quentin Young (some bylines “Newsline Staff”) published in Colorado Newsline, show a troubling pattern of false and defamatory claims. The articles are designed to defame Col. Shawn Smith USAF (ret.) and USEIP. These articles have resulted in endangering Smith, and other citizens engaged in election integrity work.

In Young’s latest piece, he states Smith is an “election denier,” and “clashing with police” on Jan. 6 videos sourced from a BLM supporter. These lies are obviously debunked by the very sources and evidence that Young cites. In fact, videos of Smith on J6 show his conduct was above reproach. His hands are visible, and he is never shown physically engaging with the police contrary to Young’s claims. This journalistic malpractice has set a very troubling and dangerous precedent.

In addition, Young advances the lie that Smith “called for CO Secretary of State to hang.” Young’s editing of Smith’s quote leaves out the end of the quote where Smith clearly states he “supports due process”. Unquestionably this demonstrates Col. Smith supports the rule of law and never did Smith name Griswold specifically. Young intentionally conflates information to portray Smith as threatening the Secretary of State. Young’s tactics to portray Smith as threatening crosses ethical lines - potentially legal boundaries especially given the military, including veterans, are obligated to support the Constitution.

This statement also serves as public notice of Young’s and Colorado Newsline’s funding sources. Links have been discovered starting with George Soros, et al, through Arabella, through 1630 dark money fund, through North Fund, through States News, which supports Colorado Newsline. In addition, North Fund also supports Democracy Docket LLC/-Action Fund/-Legal Fund. These are Russiagate/Clinton lawyer Marc Elias’ funds. Marc Elias is defending Griswold in Judicial Watch v. Griswold, an ongoing case in Colorado. To summarize, Young is funded by Griswold’s attorney, who works for Soros (who also backed Griswold in her bid for Colorado Secretary of State).

Last week Smith publicly announced he had evidence of SecState Griswold’s criminal conduct. Based on Smith’s announcement and the timing of Young posting the outdated, defamatory article about Smith appears to be linked. It would make sense that Young’s funders have a vested interest in using their owned “reporter” and paid-for Colorado Newsline to smear and discredit Smith given the fact that Soros and Elias are supporting and simultaneously defending Sec. State Jena Griswold.

Given this fact pattern, as part of this official release, Smith is notifying Young and Colorado Newsline that he has mailed several affidavits and supporting evidence of Griswold's crimes to the Colorado Attorney General (Phil Weiser) and District Attorney(s). Smith states he has more affidavits and evidence including secured backups he plans to submit to the proper authorities. Smith has taken measures to secure this information in the event there is any law enforcement retaliation attempting to seize Smith's records caused by Young's false reporting. Smith is now on the record as a whistleblower, affording him whistleblower status.

In closing:

- USEIP will publicly post a more complete list of Young's lies (40+, at last count, posted on useip.org) as a follow up response to Young's published falsehoods.
- USEIP requests a formal retraction of the entire Feb.13th article given the nature and number of the factual inaccuracies that mischaracterize Col. Shawn Smith USAF (ret.)
- To replace the retracted article on the CONL site and social media platforms, USEIP requests a public apology to Col. Smith (ret.) for the inaccurate mischaracterization of Smith being dangerous, violent, and calling for hangings. This apology should be promoted and posted on all CONL sites, related sites, and social media platforms.
- USEIP requests that CO Newsline discloses its funding sources on its website, social media platforms and in articles so the public is aware and given the opportunity to fully understand how the CO Newsline articles are funded.

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