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Mesa County grand jury indicts Clerk Tina Peters on 10 counts and Deputy Clerk Belinda Knisley on 6 counts in election system breach investigation

March 9, 2022, (GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.) — Yesterday evening, the Mesa County grand jury returned a 13-count indictment against Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters and Deputy Clerk Belinda Knisley related to an investigation into allegations of election equipment tampering and official misconduct.

Peters is charged with three counts of attempting to influence a public servant (F4), criminal impersonation (F6), two counts of conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation (F6), one count of identity theft (F4), first-degree official misconduct (M2), violation of duty (M), and failing to comply with the secretary of state (M).

Knisley is charged with three counts of attempting to influence a public servant (F4) one count of conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation (F6), violation of duty (M), and failing to comply with the secretary of state (M).

21st Judicial District Attorney Dan Rubinstein and Attorney General Phil Weiser released the following statement regarding the results of the Mesa County grand jury proceedings:

“Yesterday, the Mesa County grand jury returned an indictment after the presentation of evidence in an ongoing investigation into the alleged election system breach in Mesa County. The grand jury, randomly selected from the same pool of citizens that elected Clerk Tina Peters and chosen months before any of these alleged offenses occurred, concluded there is probable cause that Clerk Peters and Deputy Clerk Knisley committed crimes.

“A grand jury is comprised of citizens who determine whether probable cause of criminal activity has been established. Once indicted, the case must be proven in a court of law beyond a reasonable doubt.

“This investigation is ongoing, and other defendants may be charged as we learn more information. We remind everyone that these are allegations at this point and that they are presumed innocent until proven guilty.”

No further comment is available to maintain the investigation's impartiality.

The indictment is filed in Mesa County District Court. The case numbers are 22CR371 and 22CR372. Arrest warrants have been issued for the charges. Please refer to the attached indictment for the complete list of charges.

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