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## Local party chair accused of bribing judge

### Democrat Derrig allegedly threatened to pull support

**Bryce Buyakie**

Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The top Summit County Democratic Party officer is accused of attempting to

bribe Summit County Common Pleas Judge Kelly McLaughlin in an effort to sway the court's internal vote for administrative judge.

McLaughlin outlined the accusation in a letter to Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich, requesting a criminal investigation into Democratic Party Chair Mark Derrig.

An Akron police report filed on Jan. 9

alleges that Derrig emailed McLaughlin, notifying her of the party's decision to withdraw its endorsement for her 2026 reelection. The endorsement could only be granted, she was told, if she voted for a registered Democrat as administrative judge in the next annual election. Summit County judges choose their administrative judge at the start of each calendar year.

"This letter clearly offers me, a public servant, something of value in exchange for a vote regarding the administrative judgeship of the court," McLaughlin wrote to Kolkovich.

Representing Derrig is attorney Donald Malarcik, who said the email to McLaughlin restated the party's bylaws,

See **BRIBERY**, Page 8A

## Trump threatens Insurrection Act in MN

### Second ICE shooting in 7 days raises tensions

**Christopher Cann, Thao Nguyen and Jeanine Santucci**  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump on Jan. 15 threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act, which would give him power to deploy armed forces domestically, as tensions ratcheted up yet further in Minnesota following a second shooting involving a federal agent.

**"My hope is that this leadership team in Minnesota will start to work with us to get criminals off the streets."**

**Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem**

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Trump "certainly has the constitutional authority" to use the act. "My hope is that this leadership team in Minnesota will start to work

with us to get criminals off the streets."

See **ICE SHOOTING**, Page 3A



A person stands near tear gas smoke in Minneapolis Jan. 14 as tensions rise after federal immigration enforcement agents were involved in a second shooting in seven days.

LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

## Councilman criticizes Malik over police reform



Mayor calls Garrett's suggestion of inaction, ignoring advisers 'insulting'

Akron City Council President Margo Sommerville, right, and at-large Councilman Eric Garrett Sr. talk Jan. 13 about community forums on policing that they are helping to organize. The first is Jan. 22. ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

**Derek Kreider** Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

An Akron City Council member who has become one of Mayor Shammus Malik's most outspoken critics says a series of upcoming community policing forums is meant to hold Malik accountable for reforms he has promised.

At-large Councilman Eric Garrett Sr., who is co-hosting the forums with Council President Margo Sommerville and Ward 4 Councilwoman Jan Davis, said he believes the mayor ignores his own advisers' ideas on policing and underuses his powers to direct immediate changes.

"Similar to Donald Trump — he got into office and said, 'Day One I'm going to lower the price of eggs,'" Garrett said of fellow Democrat Malik. "Mayor Malik said Day One he's going to address police reform and public safety, and that has not happened yet, and so that's bad for our constituents."

Malik said his record clearly shows his commitment to police reform, and called the suggestion that he disregards his advisers untrue and "insulting" to his colleagues.

"We're working on a lot of different things," Malik

See **POLICE REFORM**, Page 11A

## Deputy investigated for ICE meme

**Bryce Buyakie**

Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Summit County sheriff's deputy is under investigation after he reportedly posted a photo on Facebook that seemingly made light of the fatal Jan. 7 federal immigration agent shooting of Renee Good.

A screenshot of the post, which the Beacon Journal could not indepen-

dently verify, circulated on social media starting last week.

The post is a meme featuring Patrick Star from "SpongeBob SquarePants" with a cratered hole for a face, singed black at the edges. The caption reads, "when you try to ram ICE with your car and they blow your s\*\*\* smooove off."

The image refers to the controversial shooting death of Good, 37, who was shot by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Minneapolis.

Chief Bill Holland, public information officer for the sheriff's office, confirmed the deputy is under investigation, noting that no disciplinary action has been taken against him.

Posted by Serve The People Akron on Facebook, an apparent email from the sheriff's office states the deputy "will face discipline" after a disciplinary committee found the deputy had committed

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