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JOURNAL SENTINEL

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“You are in a constant state of being under attack by an unseen adversary.”
Patrick Tomlinson victim of repeated “swatting” attacks



Cyberstalkers used police to ‘terrorize’ couple

‘Swatting’ attacks sent officers to home, armed, 50-plus times

Gina Lee Castro
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

For years, Niki Robinson and Patrick Tomlinson have been targets. In the span of 2½ years, police were dispatched to the couple’s home over 50 times, all in response to anonymous callers falsely claiming someone had been shot, murdered or taken hostage inside the couple’s Milwaukee home – part of a harassment scheme known as “swatting.” Police pounded on their front door and threatened to kick it down. Members of the department’s SWAT team flooded their yard, guns in hand. In text messages and digitally altered voice-mails, the cyberstalkers teased their next plot and said their goal was to get the police to kill Tomlinson and Robinson. Despite repeatedly explaining to police that they were the victims of a coordinated harassment campaign, Robinson and Tomlinson said they could not get the Milwaukee Police Department to stop coming to their house until they filed a lawsuit against the

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Surveillance footage from April 2023 shows a Milwaukee police officer knocking on Patrick Tomlinson and Niki Robinson's door around 9 p.m., the fourth time officers had stopped by in one day, the couple said. PROVIDED BY PATRICK TOMLINSON AND NIKI ROBINSON
TOP: Niki Robinson, left, talks about being a victim of swatting, while Patrick Tomlinson looks on Oct. 7 at their home in Milwaukee. Robinson and Tomlinson became victims of the harassment scheme where anonymous people made false claims about violent crimes at their home to police. ANGELA PETERSON / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Officials exit SDC, ‘no path’ for agency

Interim CEO declares he is ‘not concerned’

Gina Lee Castro
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The head of the Social Development Commission held a news conference Oct. 13 to declare that the agency’s chapter of controversy and dysfunction is coming to a close, even as it faces its worst financial position yet. The 63-year-old anti-poverty agency is staring down around \$4 million in debt while holding just \$2,770 in cash, according to court records and SDC’s press release. Highlighting the agency’s ongoing chaos, two commissioners resigned from the board an hour before the news conference. In a letter explaining the move, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County cited “serious and ongoing concerns with the management and governance of SDC.” A scant audience of mostly press gathered at the headquarters of NAACP Milwaukee to hear Jorge Franco, interim chief executive officer and board chair of SDC, share the agency’s path forward.

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Jorge Franco, interim CEO and board chair of SDC, said he isn't concerned about burning a bridge with United Way, which pulled its commissioner from the board due to "serious and ongoing concerns with the management and governance of SDC." GINA CASTRO/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Sheriff: 6 killed in Sauk County plane crash Tuesday

Pilot requested descent after reporting ice issue

Steven Martinez, Kelli Arseneau, Laura Schulte and Tamia Fowlkes
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Six people died in a Town of Dellona plane crash Tuesday night, Oct. 13, the Sauk County Sheriff’s Office confirmed.

The Sheriff’s Office received multiple reports of a downed aircraft in a densely wooded area just outside Mirror Lake State Park around 9:30 p.m., the office said in a news release. All six passengers, five adults and one child, were killed in the crash, the sheriff’s office said. Their names have not yet been released, pending family notification. The plane, a fixed-wing Piper, was flying from Kenosha to Menomonie. According to FlightAware, the plane left

Kenosha Regional Airport shortly before 9 p.m. The plane was flying at 24,000 feet when the pilot contacted air traffic control to report icing and requested to descend, according to preliminary information from the National Transportation Safety Board. Air traffic control approved the descent, and the plane “entered a right descending turn that increased in rate until communications and data tracking were lost,” the safety board said.

It’s unclear if a weather event played a role in the incident. At the intersection of Park Lane and Herwig Street, late Wednesday morning, Oct. 14, officers from the Wisconsin State Patrol kept media and onlookers away from the scene of the crash. Caution tape moved with the breeze, but little other motion could be seen from the road. The crash took place over the crest of a nearby hill in a small residential

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