
Equal Justice Project

Attorney General Todd Rokita
302 W Washington St m E-018, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Attorney General Rokita,

The Equal Justice Project (EJP) invites your office to view a live-streamed complaint by a Putnam County family. The family's due process and privacy rights were repeatedly violated after a local county commission authorized a neighbor living adjacent to their farm to regulate local zoning ordinances. The Putnam County Commission mistakenly turned over its authority to a private citizen to act as an intervener without ever running a background check. The neighbor, bolstered by the power he was allowed to wield, launched random inspections, imposed fines, and initiated daily flyovers of William and Sonia Morrison's property by aerial reconnaissance drones operated under the neighbor's direction.

William and Sonya Morrison wish to report a breach of their privacy by a neighbor, Don Richards, who was empowered by the Putnam County Commission to act as an intervener. The commission did not know Don Richards had a demonstrable record of harassment in his community. We found multiple examples of other neighbors who had been terrorized or threatened by Mr. Richards. Had the county done a routine background investigation, they would have found evidence of Mr. Richards threatening one person with a loaded weapon; and threatening one of his relatives in the months before he was given county authority to act as an intervener. Such an unstable and unbalanced individual should not have been given these powers without scrutiny. The Putnam County Commission abdicated its responsibilities, directly harming the Morrisons.

The Morrison's seek redress regarding the County Commission's misuse of its power by transferring it's lawful authority to an interested private citizen. Regardless of the county's reasoning, no private citizen in the future should ever be given intervener status over a neighbor's property. This matter requires an investigation

by your office to determine if laws were violated or if laws and regulations must be updated to prevent similar abuses.

The Morrison's live-streamed complaint will be their public statement to your office. The video serves as a formal complaint to your office by the Morrises, who request a complete investigation of this matter. The Morrises seek the sanctioning of drone operators who violated their privacy repeatedly over the past five years at the direction of their neighbor, Don Richards. Further, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison request an Attorney General review of drone policy in Indiana.

This public statement to your office will be broadcast at noon on March 29, 2023, here:

[The Morrison Report \(equaljusticeproject.com\)](https://www.equaljusticeproject.com)

William and Sonya Morrison formally request a response from your office to this complaint letter. For more information, please contact the EJP at office@ejpig.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Jackson
Executive Director EJP