JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS
Legal Department

PEG TRENT
CHIEF COUNSEL

Email:

July 7, 2022

Sheriff Calvin Hayden
27747 W. 159th Street
New Century, KS 66031

Re: Election Security

Dear Sheriff Hayden:

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me today about the meeting which occurred on July 5th with you, several Sheriff deputies and Sheriff staff, Johnson County Election Commissioner Fred Sherman, Assistant Election Commissioner Josh King, and Assistant County Manager Joe Waters. As noted in our telephone conversation, the Sheriff's office role in providing oversight of security for county buildings, including the election building, is different than oversight of election operational procedures.

It is my understanding you requested the meeting on July 5th to discuss security cameras on election ballot boxes. During this meeting, you inquired of County staff about prior election processes, challenged the integrity of elections in Johnson County, and requested that local law enforcement participate in the current election procedures. Specifically, you questioned our election officials on, or called for, the following:

- Questioned why ballot drop boxes were located at public libraries in 2020 contrary to the Sheriff's staff recommendation and whether the Election Commissioner would eliminate ballot drop boxes;
- limiting the hours that ballot drop boxes are available;
- a statement that all ballots must be printed in the State of Kansas, which you asserted was a law;
- a concern that the Election Office would not investigate, or police, the 10-ballot delivery limit;
- an offer to involve your staff with the collection of ballots at ballot drop boxes;
- a suggestion that ballots must be counted at the drop box site;
- an offer to have your staff drive unmarked vehicles to pick up ballots from ballot drop boxes;