

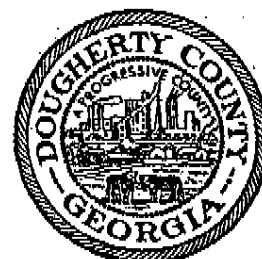


SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
CHIEF ASSISTANT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
GREGORY W. EDWARDS

Kenneth B. Hodges, III
District Attorney

DOUGHERTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ALBANY DOUGHERTY JUDICIAL BUILDING
P. O. BOX 1827
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31702-1827

May 24, 2005



STATE COURT DIVISION
CHIEF ASSISTANT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FRANCIS D. HAND, JR.

Honorable Thurbert Baker
Attorney General of Georgia
40 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Thurbert:

I hope your trip to Israel was a good one. I look forward to hearing about it when I see you again. While you were gone I stole some of Danny Porter's ink in the AJC and that is the purpose of this letter.

Quite sometime ago my office was contacted by Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital with regard to a number of anonymous faxes that were being sent all over town. At a minimum the perpetrator violated the criminal statute of harassing phone calls and until an investigation was complete we didn't know the extent of the laws that were broken. We have concluded our investigation, however, because the perpetrators have taken the offensive in the media and raised a number of allegations of conflict of interest I believe that it would be prudent to withdraw my office from the case at this time and I ask you to appoint an independent prosecutor to review the investigation, determine what, if any, charges should be brought, and ultimately to pursue such prosecution if they deem it appropriate. The suspects raise a number of issues from campaign contributions, my wife's employment status, and affidavits tendered by individuals employed with a child advocacy agency, which by the way are false, all as reasons to question this office's impartiality. Let me clearly state that this office has handled this matter, as it handles all matters, fairly, evenhandedly, and without favor to either side and while I do not believe their baseless accusations present a conflict, nor do I believe a conflict exists, in order to avoid any appearance of conflict I submit this request to you.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kenneth B. Hodges, III
District Attorney
Dougherty Judicial Circuit

KBH/lfb