

**RECEIVED**

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 7:37 am, Mar 18, 2022

March 2, 2022

Federal Election Commission  
Office of General Counsel  
999 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20463

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) issue an advisory opinion on whether Members of Congress may use campaign funds to protect themselves and their residences by including the cost of a locking security gate and/or its installation within the scope of purchasing a security system.

The FEC has previously issued opinions permitting the use of campaign funds for personal security. In Advisory Opinion 2017-07, in response to a request from the House Sergeant at Arms, the FEC concluded that Members may use campaign funds to pay for security systems including cameras, sensors, and locks "in and around" a Member's residence. In Advisory Opinion 2020-06, the FEC clarified that wiring and lighting needed to maintain a properly functioning security system could be installed using campaign funds.

Like many members of Congress, I have received direct and specific threats since taking office that have been investigated by the Capitol Police. The Office of the House Sergeant at Arms recommends Members take adequate steps to protect their residences. The Sergeant at Arms provided the attached "**Exhibit A**" Threat assessment that was investigated in 2019 regarding an incarcerated inmate that made direct threats to me and my family upon his release. Exhibit A is attached and incorporated by reference in its entirety. Furthermore, my office has compiled a list of other direct threats we have received at my DC and district office. Those threats are attached hereto as "**Exhibit B**" and incorporated by reference in its entirety.

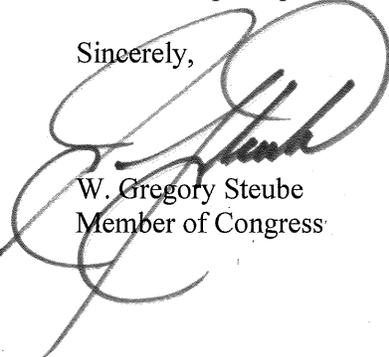
By way of background, I think it's important for the commission to have a clear understanding of the security posture of my residence. We live on 5 acres next to a 141 acre cattle ranch approximately 30 miles from any incorporated city. Our residence is in a significantly rural area of east Sarasota County and the neighborhood that we live in does not have any type of entry gate to the neighborhood. Over the years we have had two attempted burglaries to our residence, and it was before we installed a fence and any type of gate at the drive into our home. In each instance, one when we were present and one when we were not present it took law enforcement 20 minutes to respond due to the distance we live from the city. Since those 2 instances I have fenced in our property and installed an aluminum cattle gate which could easily be breached by a vehicle.

Since my election to Congress, we have experienced the direct and specific threats mentioned and detailed above in Exhibit A and B and have had situations where groups and organizations have attempted to organize to come and "protest" at my property. See "**Exhibit C**" attached and incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Due to the nature of my residential property, a security gate at the property entrance is necessary and has been recommended by security professionals and my county Sheriff. See attached letter from Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt Hoffman attached hereto as “**Exhibit D**” and incorporated by reference in its entirety. A steel security gate is needed to ensure that my residence is adequately protected as sensors, cameras, and other security equipment cannot reach certain areas of the property and do not prohibit vehicles from driving up to the residence. Specifically, I am requesting an opinion on a steel gate that does not provide aesthetic or decorative enhancements and only serves as a lockable barrier to the entrance of my residence. Such a gate requires professional installation. And just like security cameras can be removed if we ever move from the premises.

The installation of a security gate, to protect the entrance of a property that cannot be fully secured by other means, is necessary as part of a comprehensive security system. Therefore, I ask the FEC to issue an advisory opinion on whether Members of Congress may use excess campaign funds to protect themselves and their residences by including the cost of a locking security gate and/or its installation within the scope of purchasing a security system.<sup>1</sup>

Sincerely,



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> If the cost of either a locking security gate or its installation may be included within the scope of purchasing a security system, but not both, I seek an advisory opinion on this as well.

**EXHIBIT**

**“A”**

House Sergeant At Arms Office Threat Summary:

On 9/10/19, a partner law enforcement agency advised the USCP of a concerning conversation directed towards Rep. Steube. During an interview with a current inmate at a Florida county jail, information was provided regarding a fellow inmate who engaged in stalking behavior directed at Rep. Steube and his family, stating his intent to secure firearms prior to visiting the Member. These allegations were documented, and the local law enforcement located and interviewed the subject, who denied any threats to harm and stated he wanted to put the situation behind him and work on his family stability.

The subject's firearms were previously confiscated due to a domestic violence arrest and were in the possession of a local police department. Local law enforcement also contacted the subject's Parole Officer, who provided his status and current living situation. After these interviews, the Member reported seeing this subject at a local restaurant. A follow up by the Parole Officer found this encounter to be coincidental, but did say it was a potential violation of his court order. Ultimately, this subject was arrested for violating his terms of parole and returned to custody, pending intake at a community program.

**EXHIBIT**

**“B”**

**Compilation of Threats Reported to United States Capitol Police**  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube, FL-17

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The following is a report of threats and other suspicious activity reported to United States Capitol Police. This information is current as of February 7, 2022.

**INCIDENT #1**

**03/16/2020**



NAME: REDACTED

Residence:  
REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

DOB: REDACTED

Race/Sex: White/Male

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Green

REDACTED stated to staff on the phone that he was “going to get Greg” at an event that was planned on March 19, 2020. Upon being informed that the event was cancelled, REDACTED stated that he didn’t care and was going to “follow him around and get a group of people and go get him and make sure he is no longer going to be in Congress.

**INCIDENT #2**

**12/08/2020**

Voicemail left from REDACTED, caller stated that the Congressman should “go eat s\*\*\* and die”

No additional details were provided from USCP upon informing them of this call.

**INCIDENT #3**

**01/05/2021**



NAME: REDACTED  
Residence: REDACTED  
Phone: REDACTED  
Age: REDACTED  
Race/Sex: White/Male  
Hair: Blonde  
Eyes: Blue  
Weight: 150 lbs.

REDACTED is a resident of New York and has left several aggravated voicemail messages to the District Office. On a voicemail left in January 2021; REDACTED stated that he hopes “Trump sucking m\*\*\*\*\*f\*\*\*\*\* like you get taken out by any means available... ..because you never know when the bullet hits the bone.”

USCP confirmed that REDACTED is known to them and is involved with cases with other Members of Congress.

**INCIDENT #4**

**02/01/2021**

Name and other information from caller is unknown due to call being placed from a blocked number. Young female caller stated “I’m going to doxx you, I know where you live.”

This call was reported to USCP. No information about caller was provided from USCP.

**INCIDENT #5**

**02/02/2021**

Name: REDACTED

Residence: REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Age: REDACTED

REDACTED called and threatened to physically hurt the Congressman. “Don’t make me come out there... .. I’m going to break your fingers and I’ll make sure you’re going to hurt...”

USCP stated that REDACTED has a minimal criminal history and no reports of violence.

**INCIDENT #6**

**02/18/2021**



NAME: REDACTED

Residence:  
REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

DOB: REDACTED (Age REDACTED)

Race/Sex: White/Male Hair: White; Balding

Eyes: Blue

Height: 5' 09"

Weight: 180 lbs.

REDACTED placed comments via email that may be perceived as implied threats regarding his displeasure with local government and businesses. " f\*\*\* it I have run out of options, but deal with this situation in my best way fit... it will not be civil... that's for damn sure... screw you Florida government zero help everywhere I have tried... this is a bulls\*\*\* state and it needs to pay... f\*\*\* Florida..."

USCP informed us that REDACTED does have a criminal record which includes battery, intimidation, and pointing a loaded firearm.

**INCIDENT #7**

**07/26/2021**



NAME: REDACTED

Residence:  
REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

DOB: REDACTED

Age REDACTED

Race/Sex: White/Male Hair:  
Brown

Eyes: Green

Height: 5' 09"

Weight: 195

REDACTED was upset with the Congressman's office as assistance was not able to be provided with his legal case involving Federal firearms offenses. No direct threat was placed, however his rhetoric was interpreted as considerably suspicious due to the nature of his circumstances. USCP notified us that REDACTED was recently arrested for lying about his criminal history in order to obtain firearms.

**INCIDENT #8**

**12/1/2021**

Name: REDACTED

Residence:  
REDACTED

DOB: REDACTED (Age REDACTED)

REDACTED left a voicemail where he stated “..I hope you die in 24 hours...”

USCP stated that he has small criminal history involving traffic infractions, no history of violence. No additional details were provided by USCP.

**EXHIBIT**

**"C"**

3:16

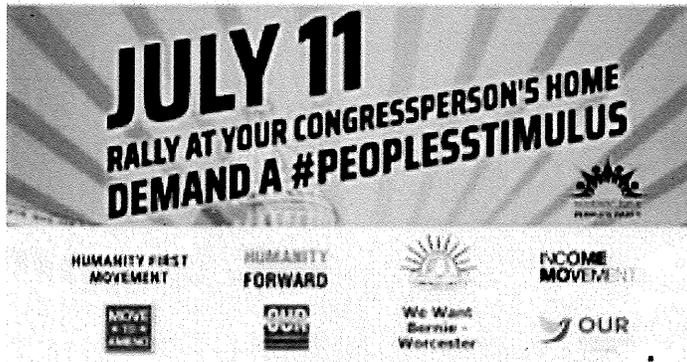


Kelli Stark shared a link.

New Member · 20h · 🌐



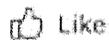
feel free to delete if not allowed, but would anyone here be interested in participating/planning for this at greg steube's? the government's response to this pandemic has been awful, especially here. if you're interested feel free to drop me a message!



PEOPLES PARTY ORG

### July 11 - Action - The People's Party

On July 11 We Will March to our Representatives ho...



Like



Comment

1

Seen by 27 people



Mary Ellen Palermo

Gregg Steube is so awful. Vote allen Ellison for our district. Steube is as hin



Write a comment...



**EXHIBIT**

**“D”**



SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
FAIRNESS - INTEGRITY - RESPECT - SERVICE



SHERIFF KURT A. HOFFMAN

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Greg Steube  
Congressman 17<sup>th</sup> District of Florida  
871 Venetia Bay Blvd., #112  
Venice, Florida 34285

Dear Congressman Steube,

Based on our previous conversations surrounding you and your family's security, I know you are acutely aware of the fact that my agency has dealt with several threats and intrusions on to not only your home, but your office as well. In the past you have made requests for extra patrol by the Sheriff's Office in the rural area of the county in which you reside.

We are more than happy to provide these additional patrols as threats materialize. Our records indicate that you have had several burglaries to your residence, alarms activated on your vehicle and vandalism committed in your neighborhood. I am also aware that as recently as February 2021 our office dealt with a person threatening to protest at your office and quote "find a different way to be heard." In reviewing two of the burglary reports it appears entry was made onto your property by way of cutting rope on the gate. You must analyze your own security needs; however, our crime prevention unit recommends a steel gate securely attached to solid posts to prevent any further criminal activity or access to your property through this gate.

As always please feel free to call us concerning any specific threat or criminal activity that we can address. Your street has been added to the extra patrol list for that patrol zone.

Sincerely,

Kurt A. Hoffman  
Sheriff  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

