

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED
PRIOR TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SESSION
ON
Thursday, January 8, 2026
AT
10:00 A.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

BOCINFO@yamhillcounty.gov

From: abrahamsutfin@proton.me
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Docket C-03-22, Grange Hill, LLC
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 11:40:39 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners,

I am writing to make public comment concerning docket C-03-22, Grange Hill, LLC.

I live just up the road from this establishment and have had little reason to drive up to see what this place looks like. Yesterday, however, I did go up and have a look. I couldn't believe that this was such a big deal as it has become. But then you go up and have a look around. In no way does this building represent a residential home occupied by a person that is part of our community. It's a compound and feels like a resort. I bike and a drive these roads daily and see what has happened to the Dundee Hills over the past 13 years of my time around here. Roadways are full of fancy cars speeding and racing to get to their luxury hotels. Residential houses are turning into hotels. Residents are packing up and moving away. My kids don't have neighbors with kids to grow up with. They are considering closing Ewing Young because there isn't the necessary enrollment - because there aren't residents living in farm country anymore,

I farm this land I live on and my family has farmed it since 1977. I hope we can keep hotels and businesses in Dundee proper and leave the farmers and foresters the land to grow things. Have a bed and breakfast but make it a family business that follows Oregon values and laws, not a corporate enterprise that first and foremost cares for profits and stakeholders.

You are the deciders of what happens where I live, but not just for me; a decision like this changes the precedent for all future residents, both of the Dundee Hills and Oregon. Please consider this before you decide.

Thanks,

Abraham

From: [Val Blaha](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: comment for 1/8/26 board meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:02:30 PM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I'm writing to express extreme concern at the state of policing in our county, both from the county level (YCSO) and federal (ICE/DHS/secret police).

You may not be aware that ICE/DHS is acting as a covert police force, operating in the shadows, hiding behind masks, and using license plates that do not match their vehicles. They are doing so in order to secretly detain hard-working community members, most of whom have not been convicted nor tried of crimes. Once people are captured by these secret police, they are taken to facilities where they have a difficult time accessing legal assistance, communicating with family members, and are often treated without dignity, not allowed medications, etc. In short, they are treated like criminals, even though they are not criminals.

The reality is that this is causing fear and terror among those who are targets, and anger and disgust among those of us who care about this deplorable treatment of our fellow humans.

Today a woman was murdered in broad daylight by ICE in Minnesota. It's not immediately clear what happened following this crime. Did local police handle the crime scene as appropriate when an innocent civilian is shot, or did ICE just dispose of evidence in a manner consistent with the lies of Kristi Noem and Donald Trump about what occurred?

What if something like this happens here? Would YCSO respond to make sure that justice and the rule of law is observed, or has our county decided that the secret police have carte blanche to do whatever they like?

Along with these questions, I'd like to know why YCSO officers are using what appear to be personal vehicles (such as a Toyota Tundra truck) to arrest community members? This occurred in 2 locations on December 30th, and many community members believed this to be ICE detentions. Shouldn't our county officers be doing all they can to assure community members that they are not the secret police, and to avoid confusing situations like what occurred on December 30th? If we are supposed to have trust in our county officers, I think they should be clearly identified. This is within your jurisdiction, and should be immediately addressed.

Sincerely,

Valerie Blaha
McMinnville, OR

From: [Joe Schirle](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Cc: [Christian Boenisch](#); [Joe Schirle](#)
Subject: Public Comment Submission – Request for County Oversight (YCSO Case 25YC0956)
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:53:00 PM
Attachments: [1-7-26 expanded summary.pdf](#)
[public comment commision.pdf](#)

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

This email sent 11/26/2025 is submitted as written public comment in advance of the upcoming Yamhill County Board of Commissioners meeting. I will also be addressing these matters during public comment in person.

Commissioners and County Counsel,

I am formally requesting county-level administrative review and oversight action regarding significant misconduct within the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office related to my motorcycle collision case (25YC0956) and the subsequent failure of YCSO to lawfully process my complaint.

Attached are the following documents already submitted to YCSO:

1. **YCSO Citizen Complaint Form** filed August 12, 2025
(no acknowledgment ever provided)
2. **Expanded Summary of Misconduct** describing statutory, administrative, and investigative violations
3. **Comprehensive Timeline** with citations to records, bodycam references, and CAD data
4. **Email correspondence** documenting YCSO's month-long failure to process my complaint and its later denial of records
5. **DMV Crash Report** containing demonstrably false statements and misrepresented evidence

My complaint involves multiple categories of serious misconduct:

- Negligent and incomplete investigation of a life-threatening collision
- Predetermined fault assignment before any investigation
- False statements and misrepresentation of my recorded statement
- Misapplication of ORS 192.345(40) to withhold bodycam footage
- Refusal to accept my supplemental statement in violation of ORS 192.318
- Potential violations of ORS 162.305 (tampering with public records)

- Possible retaliatory conduct after I filed my complaint
- Supervisory approval of a factually false report
- Failure to comply with ORS 181A.670 (complaint processing requirements)

I am requesting:

1. County-level review of YCSO's failure to process my citizen complaint
2. Independent evaluation of the falsified or inaccurate crash report
3. County Counsel's review of public-records violations and evidence suppression
4. Confirmation that my supplemental statement will be added to the official record
5. Direction to YCSO to release the bodycam footage referenced repeatedly in the police report

This matter concerns not only the mishandling of a serious injury crash but also systemic failures in transparency, public records compliance, and administrative integrity. I am asking for formal county action because all internal attempts to resolve this within YCSO have been ignored or obstructed.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint and advise on next steps in the county review process.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Schirle IV
McMinnville, OR
503-437-2460
joeschirle4@gmail.com

I am requesting that this correspondence and the attached materials be entered into the official county record.

Thank you,

Joe Schirle
(503)437-2460
Joeschirle4@gmail.com

Expanded Summary of Misconduct Allegations

Superseding Submission

Yamhill County Sheriff's Office (YCSO)

Case **25YC0956**

Supersedes prior submission due to post-submission developments
Current as of January 2026

Introduction

I am submitting this **Updated and Superseding Expanded Summary of Misconduct Allegations** concerning the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office's handling of **YCSO Case 25YC0956**, arising from my **April 17, 2025 motorcycle-vehicle collision**.

Since my original submission to the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, **additional material facts have occurred**, including supervisory admissions, formal refusals to correct known inaccuracies, continued obstruction of public records, escalation to prosecutorial and federal civil rights authorities, and the filing of a Public Records Advocate complaint. These developments necessitate this consolidated superseding submission to ensure the County has a **complete and current factual record**.

1. Negligent / Improper Investigation

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

2. Misrepresentation / False Statements

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

3. Pre-Determination of Fault / Bias

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

4. Evidence Misuse and Poor Scene Handling

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

5. Stonewalling and Obstruction After I Filed a Complaint

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

6. Retaliatory Conduct / Pattern of Avoidance

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

7. Prosecutorial & County-Level Institutional Reinforcement

(unchanged from prior submission)

[Section text remains exactly as previously submitted]

8. Supervisory Admissions Confirming Investigative Failures (September 15, 2025)

On **September 15, 2025**, following my direct escalation to Sheriff Elliott, I received a **recorded phone call from Undersheriff Bowdle**.

During this recorded conversation, Undersheriff Bowdle acknowledged:

- That the severity of my injuries **met the threshold for referral to the Oregon State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit**

- That referral to OSP is a recognized best practice in fatal or near-fatal crashes
- That impairment screening is commonly expected in serious-injury collisions, despite later attempts to characterize it as optional

These admissions **directly contradict** YCSO's investigative decisions, including:

- The failure to refer the case to OSP
- The absence of any field sobriety testing or DRE evaluation of the other driver
- The later written position taken by YCSO supervisors that the investigation was complete and proper

Undersheriff Bowdle also incorrectly stated that my supplemental statement **could not be added to the record**, despite ORS 192.318 guaranteeing that right.

This establishes supervisory awareness of investigative deviations and a conscious decision to maintain the existing report regardless.

9. Formal Supervisory Refusal to Correct Known Inaccuracies (September 16, 2025)

On **September 16, 2025**, Lt. Stackpole issued a formal written response refusing:

- Any correction or amendment to the crash report
- Any inclusion of my supplemental statement
- Any reconsideration of investigative conclusions

The letter failed to address:

- Physical evidence contradicting the report narrative
- Recorded misrepresentation of my statement
- Witness credibility deficiencies
- The acknowledged failure to refer the case to OSP
- The absence of impairment screening

This response constitutes **affirmative supervisory ratification** of an inaccurate and incomplete public record after misconduct had been formally raised.

10. Continued Public Records Obstruction and Evidence Withholding (September 2025 – January 2026)

Following my original submission, I filed additional public records requests (**RR25-426, RR25-801, RR25-802**) seeking body-worn camera footage, CAD logs, RMS/LEDS query records, and related materials referenced in the official report.

Despite these requests:

- Body-worn camera footage continues to be withheld
- ORS 192.345(40) has been repeatedly misapplied
- RMS/LEDS logs documenting access to my vehicle information have not been produced
- Responsibility has been deflected to YCOM without disclosure

These denials persisted **after explicit notice** that the records were required to correct inaccuracies under ORS 192.318.

The continued withholding of evidence after formal notice raises concerns of **intentional suppression**, not administrative delay.

11. Certified Supplemental Victim Statement Ignored (November 24, 2025)

On **November 24, 2025**, I submitted a formal **Supplemental Victim Statement**:

- Sent by certified mail (receipt confirmed)
- Sent electronically to YCSO
- Explicitly requesting inclusion in the official case record

As of **January 2026**, YCSO has provided:

- No acknowledgment
- No confirmation of inclusion
- No correction of the disputed report

Failure to attach or acknowledge a certified supplemental statement constitutes an ongoing violation of ORS 192.318.

12. District Attorney Escalation and Non-Action (November–December 2025)

On **November 26, 2025**, I formally requested District Attorney review of false statements, negligent investigation, suppression of evidence, and potential Brady/Giglio issues.

The District Attorney's response:

- Relied on the disputed YCSO report
- Did not address documented contradictions
- Did not initiate independent evidentiary review
- Provided no corrective action

No substantive follow-up has occurred since **December 18, 2025**, reinforcing reliance on an inaccurate record rather than oversight.

13. DOJ Civil Rights Complaint Acknowledged (November 25, 2025)

On **November 25, 2025**, I filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

The DOJ acknowledged receipt and assigned **Record Number 677214**.

This filing was based on cumulative conduct including differential treatment, denial of statutory rights, and retaliatory obstruction following complaint activity.

14. Oregon Public Records Advocate Complaint (January 2, 2026)

On **January 2, 2026**, I filed a complaint with the Oregon Public Records Advocate regarding:

- Improper denials
- Misapplication of exemptions
- Failure to facilitate correction of records

As of **January 5, 2026**, the complaint remains unresolved.

Updated Conclusion

The post-submission developments documented above demonstrate that the misconduct originally alleged was **not isolated, inadvertent, or corrected when brought to supervisory attention**. Instead, the record now shows:

- Supervisory acknowledgment of investigative failures
- Formal refusal to correct known inaccuracies
- Continued suppression of evidence
- Retaliatory obstruction following complaints

- Prosecutorial and county-level reinforcement
- Escalation to state and federal oversight bodies

This establishes a pattern of institutional misconduct, not individual error, warranting independent external investigation, corrective action, and County-level oversight.

Good morning Commissioners, my name is Joseph Schirle.

You have received my misconduct summary, my formal complaints, and my supporting documentation. I am here today because what has happened to me—and what your Sheriff's Office has done since—needs to be stated clearly and publicly.

What happened to me was not just a crash.

What followed was a cover-up built on false statements, ignored evidence, and obstruction that extended up the chain of command—and it is still unresolved today.

1. The truth of the crash is simple

On April 17, 2025, I was riding my motorcycle home from work when I was hit head-on by a driver who crossed into my lane.

The photographs taken by the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office and the debris field prove it. Deputy body-worn camera footage proves I was conscious and coherent. Skid marks and tire tracks show exactly where the vehicles were positioned.

There is no ambiguity in the physical evidence.

But the Sheriff's Office did not follow the evidence.

Instead, they closed the case quickly, knowing that if the victim were unconscious or dead, no one could challenge their narrative.

I survived.

And that is why this is being challenged.

2. The official report is false — and they know it

Deputy-in-training Russell Vandewettering completed the investigation and filed the DMV crash report within 24 hours **without ever speaking to me**, the victim.

He relied on a witness who admitted he could not tell whether I was a motorcycle or a bicycle. He relied on a second witness who was referred to him by the driver who hit me and who was interviewed by phone hours after leaving the scene.

For the next five days, my family and I repeatedly attempted to contact the Sheriff's Office about the investigation. Each time, we were told the deputy was on vacation and it would have to wait.

On April 23rd, Deputy-in-training Vandewettering finally called me at the hospital—not to ask what happened, but to tell me what he had decided happened.

When he finished giving his narrative, I told him, *"I didn't remember any of that happening,"* referring to his description.

He responded by telling me I was liable and "lucky" I wasn't being charged.

Immediately afterward, he twisted my words and entered into the official report that “*Joseph doesn’t remember the crash.*”

That is not a misunderstanding.

That is a false statement entered into an official report, and the recorded Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office phone call documents it.

3. The obstruction afterward was intentional

I attempted to correct the record.

The Sheriff’s Office refused to accept my supplemental statement unless I mailed it certified. I mailed it certified.

As of today, it still has not been acknowledged or attached.

I submitted multiple public records requests.

Body-worn camera footage referenced in the report was omitted.

I requested again.

It was omitted again.

I filed an official citizen complaint on August 12, 2025.

It received no acknowledgment.

After more than a month of silence, I emailed the Sheriff directly.

Days later, Undersheriff Bowdle called me and stated there was no issue releasing the body-camera footage and instructed me to file another records request.

I did.

That request was denied, citing exemptions that do not apply to a victim attempting to correct false information in an official record.

That is not incompetence.

That is deliberate avoidance.

4. Supervisors doubled down on false information

During a recorded call, the Undersheriff contradicted himself multiple times.

He admitted that fatal or near-fatal crashes typically warrant referral to the Oregon State Police crash reconstruction unit.

He admitted no impairment testing was performed on the other driver.

He then falsely claimed that he could not accept a supplemental statement—despite state law explicitly allowing it.

The following day, I received a letter from Lieutenant Stackpole stating that the report had been “reviewed in detail,” refusing any correction, and instructing that the deputy would not contact me again.

This was not one bad deputy.

This was a coordinated decision upheld at multiple supervisory levels.

5. Why I am here

I am here because the official record is still false.

I am here because evidence is still being withheld.

I am here because the internal complaint process within the Sheriff’s Office has proven to be a dead end.

And I am here because the only remaining path to accountability is public oversight.

You, the Commissioners, are the only civilian oversight authority this county has.

If you do not intervene, no one will.

6. What I am asking of this Board

I am asking for:

- Acknowledgment of my complaint and documentation
- A directive requiring YCSO to attach my supplemental statement to the official record
- An independent review of the investigation for falsification, negligence, and evidence suppression
- Accountability for supervisory personnel who upheld a false report instead of correcting it

I survived a crash that should have killed me.

What I did not expect was to survive that—and then have to fight my own Sheriff’s Office for a truthful public record.

I am not going away.

I am not backing down.

And I will not allow a false report to define me, my case, or the truth.

Thank you.