

A Statement from the Port of Centralia Commission President Kyle Markstrom

Regarding the March 22, 2025, Letter to Lewis County Sheriff Rob Snaza and Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Meyer

I am providing this statement to address the ongoing misinformation surrounding my March 22, 2025, letter to Lewis County Sheriff Rob Snaza and Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Meyer. This topic continues to arise during public comment with misleading claims, and I intend to put the matter to rest by clarifying the situation here.

A Centralia citizen, who operates an active Facebook group focused on the Port of Centralia, became involved in a private matter concerning a member of Port staff. That staff member and their family are victims of stalking by a neighbor at their personal residence, which is located in greater Lewis County, not within Centralia city limits. As victims, they were granted a temporary restraining order against their neighbor by a Lewis County judge.

On March 20, 2025, a Centralia citizen admitted to law enforcement that they had collaborated with the offending neighbor to gather information about the Port staff member's private life for publication on a Facebook group. According to the Lewis County Sheriff's Deputy's incident report documenting the phone interview with the citizen, the deputy asked whether the information publicly posted about the Port staff member had been obtained from the restrained person monitoring the staff member's property and reporting it back to the citizen. The citizen confirmed that it had. The deputy then advised the citizen to be mindful of these posts, as they appeared to defame the Port employee.

Furthermore, this collusion directly contributed to a Lewis County judge granting a lifetime restraining order on June 2, 2025, against the neighbor.

I wrote my letter to urge an investigation because a member of Port staff's personal victimization was being perpetuated by a private citizen, specifically in connection with their role here at the Port of Centralia.

Some have alleged that the Port has "weaponized" law enforcement to harass citizens critical of the Port. This is categorically untrue. Despite public claims to the contrary, the Centralia citizen involved has acknowledged their actions in this matter. The request for law enforcement assistance was made properly, through the appropriate agency for the relevant jurisdiction, to protect and support a victim of a crime.

I hope this statement provides the necessary context to keep the public accurately informed and to maintain transparency.

It is perfectly acceptable to have personal opinions about the Port and how it conducts business; however, Port employees are entitled to privacy, especially in their own homes.

In accordance with the Port of Centralia's Guidelines for Public Comment at Meetings, all public comments must be directed to the Commissioners — not to Port staff — and must pertain to Port business or specific agenda items. Anyone who chooses to be disruptive during the public comment period may have their comments curtailed or may be removed from the meeting.

Thank you.