

March 20, 2006

FRANCIS WATTS,  
Chief of VA Police,  
Bay Pines VA Medical Center  
E-mail: [franciswatts@med.va.gov](mailto:franciswatts@med.va.gov)

Dear Chief Watts:

I received a voice mail message from your Assistant Chief of VA Police Lionel Barela today, requesting that I make an appointment to appear in person for questioning in connection with my Press Release concerning among other things, the possible unlawful and illegal activities of Phillip G. Meskin on and off VA Property.

Inasmuch as I do not wish to appear to be uncooperative, PLEASE DULY NOTE THAT the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) advised me that only a JUDGE can ORDER ME to answer questions to which I choose not to voluntarily answer, and only those questions which I do not invoke my Fifth Amendment Rights to which I feel may be self-incriminating.

Although I feel I did nothing unlawful or illegal in connection with the knowledge I had about Meskin prior to writing the said Press Release and notifying your office of same, if at some point in time I did agree to answer questions, I would only do so with the presence of an Attorney.

However, since I cannot afford an Attorney, and to date you have not charged me with any criminal act which would require that you provide me with a Public Defender, short of being ORDERED BY A JUDGE at a Hearing or Trial or Court Ordered Deposition in the matter of Phillip Meskin, at this point in time I DECLINE to answer any questions concerning this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

COPY

---

Terry Richards  
P.O. Box 66202  
St. Petersburg, FL 33736-6202  
Telephone 727-327-0277  
E-mail: [veteranscorner@yahoo.com](mailto:veteranscorner@yahoo.com)

cc: Original signed letter to be mailed by regular U.S. mail to Chief Francis Watts, and Copy to Assistant Chief Lionel Barela, Bay Pines VAMC VA Police, P.O. Box 5005, Bay Pines, FL 33744.