



## Press Conference—Sheriff Nelson

Good afternoon. I am Shane Nelson, Deschutes County Sheriff. My office has been the lead investigative agency on the Lavoy Finicum shooting from the beginning.

In conducting the investigation and going where the evidence led, investigators from our office discovered the actions of the Defendant and the subsequent concerning actions of some members of the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, or HRT. This type of behavior stands in stark contrast to the professionalism and integrity displayed by the Oregon State Police and Superintendent Travis Hampton. The actions of the FBI HRT in this case damage the integrity of the entire law enforcement profession, which makes me both disappointed and angry.

I want to take the time to point out that this troubling conduct is in no way indicative of the great partnership my office has historically enjoyed with our local FBI office and Special Agent in Charge James “JB” Bents.

Over a year ago, Deschutes County Sheriff’s investigators and I flew to FBI Headquarters in Washington to brief then FBI Deputy Director, now Acting Director Andrew McCabe, and other FBI and Department of Justice officials on the results of our investigation. We informed them we found possible criminal conduct by the involved FBI HRT agents.

I was disappointed when I recently heard FBI HRT agents, associated with this case, were not placed on administrative leave after the briefing by our investigators to FBI Administration. Today’s indictment will ensure that the Defendant and, hopefully other culpable FBI HRT members, will be held accountable through the justice process.

I would especially like to thank the U. S. Inspector General, Michael Horowitz, and his investigators. They have been great partners in tirelessly searching for the facts in this case. In addition to the criminal justice process, his office will be conducting a thorough administrative review to identify any areas of improvement that will help eliminate the mistakes made by the FBI in the future and increase transparency for federal law enforcement.

There is a phrase from a Roman poet, which translates to “Who will guard the guards?” I am proud and encouraged that Inspector General Horowitz and his office will do just that.

We could never have come to this day without the fearlessness of US Attorney Bill Williams and the partnership and hard work of his prosecution team. His office was exacting in detail and

refused any hurried timeline. Simply put, they took their time and got it right. As always, it has been an honor to work with you. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank my teammates in the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and other partner agencies in our Major Incident Team, for their tireless work, scrupulous honesty, investigative skills and dedication to duty. The residents of Deschutes County and the state of Oregon have every right to be proud of their service. Thank you.