



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TAHESHA WAY
Secretary of State

September 28, 2018

Paul Kaufman
Fort Lee Executive Park
Two Executive Drive, Suite 530
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

Dear Mr. Kaufman,

On Thursday, September 20, 2018, WNYC released audio recordings of then-Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino making racist and homophobic comments. The following day, Friday, September 21, 2018, Mr. Saudino directed the Director of Communications of the Bergen County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) to issue a statement indicating his resignation. The statement, which made clear that the resignation was effective immediately, was released publicly and received by the Office of the Governor.

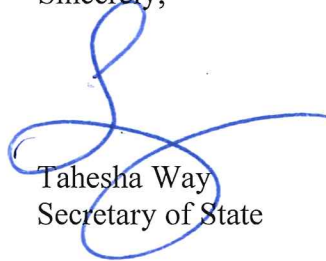
On Saturday, September 22, 2018, Mr. Saudino reported to BCSO to remove his personal belongings from his office and voluntarily return his BCSO-issued equipment. On Sunday, September 23, 2018, two BCSO officers reported to Mr. Saudino's residence to retrieve his BCSO-issued vehicle. Based on the September 21 statement and Mr. Saudino's subsequent actions, BCSO removed Mr. Saudino from its payroll, effective September 21.

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018, a notice of resignation for Mr. Saudino was filed with my office. This notice created a vacancy in the position of Bergen County Sheriff, requiring an election to fill the position at the November 6, 2018, general election.

I am aware that, earlier today, Mr. Saudino sent the Governor what purported to be a letter of resignation. That letter has no legal effect, given that a notice of resignation has already been filed with my office. The position of the Bergen County Sheriff has been vacant since September 21 and remains vacant. Under state law, the position must be filled at the general election next month.

On September 26, 2018, I instructed the Bergen County Clerk to take the necessary steps to hold an election for Sheriff next month. Those instructions remain in effect. Given the approaching deadlines, I encourage the County Clerk to proceed with his planning without further delay.

Sincerely,



Tahesha Way
Secretary of State

