

Darryl Cotton  
6176 Federal Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92114

February 26, 2025

Mr. Kashyap Pramod Vinod “Kash” Patel, FBI Director  
Mr. Daniel John “Dan” Bongino, FBI Deputy Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Inspection Division  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Sent Certified Mail No: 9589 0710 5270 2451 7787 57

Gentlemen,

I am writing you today on behalf of myself, Amy Sherlock and the vast majority of the American people who wish to congratulate you, President Trump and all those who have joined him in not only winning an election that was bent on defeating him but once in office gave us the quality of people that I believe will make the changes our country needs to thrive at home. You all have a herculean task ahead of you, but I believe with what President Trump learned from his first term, he now knows who to surround himself with in this office and while there will still be malcontent opposition it will be far less likely to be coming from within his own camp. Things will get done. The course correction will occur. Thank you ALL for taking this on at great personal cost.

I have attached the letter of February 20, 2025, Department of Justice | Office of the Inspector General (OIG) which referred my matter to this office (Exhibit 1). That letter was in response to my letter to the OIG of January 27, 2025, which I’ve attached here, less attachments. (Exhibit 2). With that letter in mind, what I would like to take a moment to describe to you will hopefully help define what I believe might help you, the FBI, DOGE and the entire government run more efficiently, increase accountability and set forth a future where the government will not revert back to the way of doing business that existed before you and your team put in all the hard work to fix what has been broken.

What can be seen by my letter to the OIG is that the paper version of this letter contains hyperlinks that obviously can’t be seen unless the entire URL is listed. For anyone interested in following up on the information contained within this type of correspondence it’s impractical and burdensome to have to reach back out to the tipster and ask that the information be sent electronically. Indeed, even having to correspond like this is not the way to get things done. I have to get you additional information in its electronic format and would ask you allow me to do so. But in considering the need for my matter, I would like to suggest that the broader issue the FBI has in taking back control of an element within the agency that has gone rogue and what I believe will help curtail much of that element going forward.

The FBI should be the lead investigative agency represented by “We the People.” By that I mean give the PUBLIC the opportunity to set up an account from the FBI website that once screened, and background checked will allow that individual to upload information they have which

would give the agency an opportunity to decide if the information is credible and actionable. The account setup would require that the user has an approved/screened identity, it would require the information the user provided use a single URL (no VPN) that would stay with the user identity for 2 years. At the end of the 2 years the user could renew their account subject to FBI approval. If any user were to submit fraudulent information or use the portal unethically, they would be permanently banned from future log in opportunities.

The country needs this. The way the FBI is set up in at least the San Diego Field Office it took numerous visits over many years with the Special Agents assigned to the Public Integrity Unit (PIU) division during which time I and others I introduced them to, had to submit hard copies of our evidence to them and direct them to our websites where the electronic, PDF versions with working hyperlinks could be found.

If this tipster portal had existed it would have offered the tipster, me, the opportunity to check any of the boxes that the tipster believes the matter pertained to. For example, this would include reporting Government Fraud and Corruption, Financial Crimes, Human Trafficking, Narcotics, Kidnapping, Murder, Illegal Immigration, Law Enforcement Corruption, etc. In addition to describing the tip in, for example 500 words or less, the tipster would be given an opportunity to upload PDF and/or JPEG files that would support the accusations. If the matter had national or local jurisdiction issues the tipster could check that box during submission. Once everything had been completed and the tipster finalized their tip, the system would generate a unique tip identification number which would assure the tipster their information was in your hands and just as importantly, would give FBI management an opportunity to survey the overall reports by division, who has been assigned the matter if it rises to that, and if not put it in a non-actionable or referral to a local or other federal government investigative agency if that is what is warranted.

Regardless of the referral agency, the FBI would always maintain supervisory control of the matter under that report number<sup>1</sup> which if it turns out there is some self-protection at play within the referral agency, the tipster would later have the opportunity to relay that information through the portal and issued assignment number which gives the tipster the confidence that the FBI, a “We the People” agency, does not forget about a credible violation of the law and will act on any legitimate issue in which the information has been provided to them.

### **OPERATION CANNA-GREED**

What brings me to the table now is the result of the years I, and large numbers across the country who have been victims of the pay-to-play corruption that stems from certain states who have legalized adult-use, recreational cannabis law and regulation. We are confident in your capabilities and want to expose this corruption using the data we have collected. For years we have been sharing our stories on social media, comparing notes and putting all the information we gather

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<sup>1</sup> In order to keep the Tip Portal from ever becoming politically weaponized it may be prudent to have the opposing party Chairperson appoint 3 member to a Tipster Complaint portal review which would allow the Tipster to complain that the FBI is weaponizing the complaint for political purposes. This would always give the FBI a moral high ground that they are following the evidence and the law, not whoever is in office and what their agenda might be. By having the Tipster make this complaint it alleviates even the opposing party’s rank and file from arguing the Tipster function as a law enforcement tool. Should the investigation end up going to a USAA or AG the Tipster Complaint information would have to be included as evidence to the filing party for their consideration.

under what amongst us we've been referring to as OPERATION CANNA-GREED.

I won't rehash what has already been sent in my previous letter's, but I will take this opportunity to state that as it relates to the sanctuary blue state issues this administration faces with immigration, the same enforcement-legal principals apply with recreational cannabis being state legalized. Like immigration these states actions are a violation of the Supremacy Clause and because the states who have legalized adult-use will assert, incorrectly, a 10<sup>th</sup> amendment right to do so, they do this at the risk of the licensee who is subject to federal charges of violating the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) and all the repercussions that go along with it.

Recreational cannabis law and regulation has been an abject failure anyway. The overtax and overregulation of this all cash industry has led to government corruption that is hard to put a dollar amount on. It has been a gift brought in my California Governor Newsom, former Attorney General Kamala Harris and former Representative Rob Bonta. These people need to be held accountable for their Machiavellian construct that took what had been medical cannabis, tolerated under Rohrbacher-Farr and thumbed their nose at federal law because those states knew that the enforcement of federal law with any Democratic led administration would not be a risk the states or the state licensees would be subject to. That has to change.

Put the states and licensees on notice that recreational cannabis is in violation of the Supremacy Clause and enforcement of federal law will be a priority under this administration. The budget line item regarding medical cannabis DOJ enforcement under Rohrbacher-Farr (Blumenthal) would still be respected as this position aligns with the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotics, to which the United States is a signatory to, would exempt cannabis when it is used for scientific and medical purposes. This should make RFK happy because it's a position, science and medical, worth taking over at HHS.

While you might think my comments are directed at cannabis activism, there is no doubt that as a medical cannabis patient for over 40 years I can attest to what the land race genetics I use to treat nocturnal seizures have been effective and life changing, this is really about the abuses we have suffered for years by a government who, as Justice Clarence Thomas stated "conceals traps for the un-wary."

"Whatever the merits of Raich when it was decided, federal policies of the past 16 years have greatly undermined its reasoning. Once comprehensive, the Federal Government's current approach is a half-in, half-out regime that simultaneously tolerates and forbids local use of marijuana. This contradictory and unstable state of affairs strains basic principles of federalism and conceals traps for the un-wary." (*Standing Akimbo, LLC, et al. v. United States*, 594 U.S. 141S. Ct 2236 2021)

What Justice Thomas hit on is that the traps also extend to the federal government in that the intrastate trafficking of "recreational" cannabis is proliferating. The difference between traditional, i.e. black market cannabis and "legal" cannabis enterprises has been blurred. Many, in fact many licensees, are engaged in some type of back door, off-books enterprise just to survive. Millions of dollars in tax revenues are going uncollected as state and local governments are finding that the criminals use of shell companies and proxy strawman make collection of those unpaid taxes virtually impossible. The bad actors simply set up a new shell company and resume operations. Operations that increasingly rely on using their licensed operation as a front for trafficking drugs other than cannabis (See *United State of America v. The Bureau of Cannabis Control*, 20CV1375

*BEN LL).*

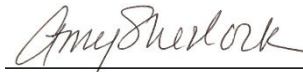
Please address this incongruity with state v federal cannabis law and regulation and give us a portal to report crimes to the FBI. I promise what will come to the FBI will be an avalanche of people who will finally believe that with this information, in the proper hands, justice will be served.

I believe that it will be the FBI who will be the lead agency where Americans will find their voices are heard. Their complaints of crimes are being taken seriously no matter if it's a private, public or government agency engaged in these activities. To that end I and many of my colleagues, stand ready to assist at any level you might require.

Please stay safe and may God Bless you, your mission and the United States of America.



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Attachments: Exhibit 1 (OIG Letter to Cotton)  
Exhibit 2 (Cotton Letter to the OIG)

# Exhibit 1



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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February 20, 2025

Darryl Cotton  
Amy Sherlock  
[151DarrylCotton@gmail.com](mailto:151DarrylCotton@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Cotton and Ms. Sherlock:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 27, 2025. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of the Inspector General, investigates allegations of misconduct by employees and contractors of DOJ, as well as waste, fraud and abuse affecting DOJ programs and operations. After reviewing your complaint, we have determined that the matters that you raised are more appropriate for review by another office within the DOJ. Therefore, we have forwarded your correspondence to:

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Inspection Division  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535  
Telephone Number: (202) 324-3000

Please direct any further correspondence regarding this matter to that office.

Of course, if you have information that involves other allegations or issues regarding DOJ employees, contractors, programs or operations, please feel free to submit that information to us.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review your concerns.

Sincerely,

Office of the Inspector General  
Investigations Division

# Exhibit 2

Darryl Cotton  
6176 Federal Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92114

January 27, 2025

U.S Department of Justice  
Michael E. Horowitz, Office of the Inspector General  
Investigations Division  
ATTN: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Complaints  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Sent Certified Mail No: 9589 0710 5270 1122 4223 71

Mr. Horowitz,

I have attached a letter authored by myself and Mrs. Amy Sherlock (Amy), dated January 23, 2025. That letter was sent by certified mail to Special Agents, Daniel James (James) and Curtis Silver (Silver), both who work in the San Diego FBI's Public Integrity Unit (PIU) office. (See Exhibit 1). As you will see by USPS tracking, that letter was received in the San Diego office on January 24, 2025 (See Exhibit 2). Of course, since they just received it, we have yet to receive a response to that letter, but our letter to you is meant both to be preemptive and to expand your knowledge of what we know to be occurring on a much larger scale.

Amy and I have had some history with these agents and their supervisor (I believe his name was Brett) that concerns us to the point we fear there may be retaliatory acts by these agents for having even sent them that letter. In fact, we have reason to believe that these agents did nothing with the information we provided them, or information and evidence provided by a number of other victims we introduced to them in the mistaken belief we would lose interest and simply go away. I can assure you that has not been the case. In fact, those who have been subjected to these ongoing systemic activities have only grown in numbers<sup>1</sup>. We would be happy to provide the DOJ with those other parties' identities once the investigative scope broadens.

As far as Amy and I are concerned, we believe our concerns over retaliation are justified for the following reasons. This letter contains two attachments that were not included in the January 23<sup>rd</sup> letter. The first is a series of text messages between d Ms. Amy Sherlock and S.A. Daniel James that occurred between 08/2022 and 09/2024 (See Exhibit 3). There are 14 pages that provide a sense of how Amy and S.A. James communicated what evidence she had of City of San Diego corruption in the Adult-Use Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process and that additional evidence she provided S.A James and Silver, proves that her husband, Michael "Biker" Sherlock's death was not a suicide as reported but instead a murder which allowed the CUP's he had acquired

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<sup>1</sup> These pay-to-play activities are not limited to just San Diego or even California. There exists ample evidence that these ongoing pay-to-play licensing schemes are systematically occurring throughout California and in other states where these all cash based, adult-use cannabis businesses operate "legally" under state law. In our case we provided James and Silver with other victims of these crimes outside of their jurisdiction, but no agency referrals or follow up inquiries with the parties were ever made.



in his name to be taken over by wealthy, well connected parties he had considered partners while he pursued these CUPs.

The other evidence I would like to present to you would be the email Amy sent to her attorney Andrew Flores (See Exhibit 4) which described her last conversation on September 10, 2024 she had with James and Silver during which they told her that the evidence she (and by association all my evidence) had brought them, although was “not right,” was not evidence of a widespread pattern by those in government. But beyond that incredible statement as far as there being any FBI investigation into those activities that involved private citizens who would be violating laws, Amy asked if they would refer this information to other divisions within the FBI, they declined to help her with a referral stating it was “her behavior that prevented people [i.e. law enforcement] from helping her.” **Wow!**

Please understand that even writing this letter has been extremely difficult and fills us with fear and trepidation. We do not want to believe that a fair and honest attempt has not been made by these agents to have investigated this public corruption and the associated private party activities evidence they have been provided with. However, there is a case precedent for what these agents failed to do and that failure to act scenario existed in the [USA Gymnastics matter](#), when lead Special Agent Michael Langeman, a career civil servant, was given testimony and evidence by the victims of sexual misconduct perpetrated by their Coach Larry Nassar. When considering how [S.A. Langman treated the evidence given him regarding Coach Nassar](#) and how James and Silver have treated our testimony and evidence even going so far as to blame us and our search for justice that has led to us becoming pariahs of the law enforcement community. Not willing to accept that characterization we are compelled to bring this matter to your attention.

Finally, I would ask that you please consider the information contained herein and find out what case files these agents may have acquired over the years and to consider the new evidence we provide the agents in our January 23<sup>rd</sup> letter. Should you request these letters and documents in electronic form, whereby all the embedded hyperlinks would be available for you, I am happy to provide you with those versions upon your request.

Thank you for your consideration and in anticipation of your reply we will remain.



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Attachments: Exhibit 1 (Cotton's 01/23/2025 Letter to FBI-PIU San Diego)  
Exhibit 2 (USPS Tracking)  
Exhibit 3 (Text Messages)  
Exhibit 4 (Sherlock Email)