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## **Statement from the Stearns County Sheriff's Office**

**Reference:** Gilkerson Press Conference  
**Date:** October 2, 2018  
**Case Number:** 89006407

It is important to note in retired FBI Agent Steve Gilkerson's press conference today that the Minneapolis FBI spokesperson, the Special Agent in Charge or any FBI supervisor did not make any statements defending the initial Wetterling investigation. It is also noted that no one from the U.S. Attorney's Office made any statements in reference to the Wetterling investigation. It was a retired FBI Agent defending the indefensible.

There were multiple missteps in the Wetterling investigation that almost appeared to be acts of willful blindness. Heinrich registered deceptive in the polygraph examination, fits the composite and descriptions, has tires and shoes that correspond to prints at the scene, had the vehicle used in the Cold Spring abduction that the victim rates an 8 or 9 out of 10, a fiber from that victim's clothing is consistent with a fiber from the carpet of that car, has photos of children in his possession not confiscated by the FBI or the Sheriff's investigators, has the gray portable police scanner, says similar things to victims, has a distinctive voice, has clothing which is similar to clothing worn by the perpetrator in all the assaults, has the handgun and asks another perpetrator how to get rid of a body.

No other suspect in the entire case file have multiple indicators that they were even remotely involved in the Paynesville assaults, the Cold Spring case or the Wetterling abduction. Yet, no one goes back to look at Heinrich for more than 20 years.

When Agents Garber and Gilkerson are hired as private investigators to investigate the Wetterling case again in the 2000's, they do not go back to Heinrich. They instead focus on two brothers in Morrison County. That fact, alone, says everything about their investigation of this case.

Agent Gilkerson says that he was unaware of the Paynesville incidents during the course of the investigation. On January 10, 1990 Gilkerson authors a report of his interview with a victim of the Paynesville assaults.

Once again, we encourage the FBI to release a copy of their files in the Wetterling investigation.

Please also refer to the Stearns County Sheriff's Office Statement from October 1, 2018 for additional information.