



JOE PELLE
Sheriff

January 4, 2019

Boulder County Sheriff's Office

STATEMENT RE: "FIRST AMENDMENT AUDIT" VIDEOS

On Friday, December 28, 2018, two suspicious men were observed by an off-duty sheriff's deputy wearing black masks and walking around the Boulder County jail complex recording video footage. The men were observed in both public areas as well as areas posted "No Trespassing" within the jail complex. Officers from the Boulder Police Department subsequently contacted the two men in the parking lot to investigate their suspicious behavior and were later joined by on-duty sheriff's deputies. The men were detained as their actions were investigated and were ultimately released without criminal charges.

The men recorded two videos [[video 1](#) and [video 2](#)] under the auspices of a "First Amendment Audit" campaign, which were uploaded to YouTube after their release. Their public posting has caused an influx of angry phone calls, including "robo-calls," from those who support their cause and believe their detention was unlawful as officers investigated their suspicious behavior. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for the safety and security of the jail and other public facilities and will investigate any suspicious behavior accordingly.

Beyond the December 28 incident, members of the "First Amendment Audit" movement have continued to try and instigate conflicts with law enforcement over the past week at a number of public facilities in and around Boulder, including a subsequent attempt involving the same behavior at the jail. The "First Amendment Audit" movement appears to be an attempt at provoking a confrontation with law enforcement officers called to investigate their suspicious behavior.

Due to the volume and nature of the phone calls and messages received, the Sheriff's Office will only receive, review and respond to requests for additional information or comment related to this incident in written form. Written correspondence may be submitted to the Sheriff's Office at:

Boulder County Sheriff's Office
Attn: Public Information Unit
PO Box 471
Boulder, Colorado 80306

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