Twitter Thread by Scott MacFarlane



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NOW: Court hearing for newly charged US Capitol Police officer. Officer Michael Riley is accused of obstruction... of warning Facebook friend who was at Capitol on Jan 6 to delete pictures

One alleged message: "I'm a Capitol police officer who agrees w/ your political stance"

c. When Person 1 stated that he did not think he had done anything wrong, RILEY responded, "The only thing I can see is if you went in the building and they have proof you will be charged. You could always articulate that you had no where to go, but thats for court."

d. RILEY further advised PERSON 1, "Dont sweat it, they might choose to only charge certain people and not everyone. Personally i dont know what they have decided, just know our guys and the FBI are going through everything".

9. On January 8, 2021, RILEY and Person 1 continued to exchange Facebook direct messages about January 6, including regarding the death of a USCP officer.

10. On January 9, 2021, Person 2 messaged RILEY about Person 1. In particular, Person 2 sent RILEY a video of Person 1's Facebook live-stream from the U.S. Capitol on January 6, which showed Person 1 smoking an unknown substance inside the Capitol building. Person 2 also sent RILEY a screenshot of the video, capturing Person 1 inhaling from a hand-rolled cigarette.

More of alleged warning message sent by Capitol Police officer to suspected Jan 6 participant: "Take down the part about being in the building they are currently investigating and everyone who was in the building is going to be charged"

Feds allege Capitol Police officer Riley deleted his facebook messages with suspected Jan 6 participant... after the suspect alerted him that the FBI was asking questions ==>

call me, you can stay at my house on the shore for free and bring your daughter to the museums. If you want to see the capitol building, lets do it legally next time… I know a guy who can get you a tour…lol. Its behind you now…lesson learned! Just ask your attorney whats next".

14. On January 19, 2021, Person 1 was arrested by the FBI on charges that he unlawfully entered the U.S. Capitol on January 6, and he was interviewed about his conduct.

15. RILEY and Person 1 continued to exchange friendly messages until January 20, 2021. On that date, Person 1 sent RILEY Facebook direct messages regarding having turned himself in to the FBI, including telling RILEY, "The fbi was very curious that I had been speaking to you if they havent already asked you about me they are gonna. They took my phone and downloaded everything." RILEY responded, "Thats fine".

16. On January 20, 2021, RILEY deleted all of his Facebook direct messages to and from Person 1.

Hearing is beginning now ... before federal magistrate judge Michael Harvey

Officer Riley, 50, is being sworn-in

Grand jury has indicted Riley on two counts of Obstruction of Justice (each is 20-year max federal charges)

High-profile DC attorney David Benowitz will serve as Riley's defense attorney. Benowitz is also handling a number of cases involving Jan 6 defendants

Feds will NOT seek to hold Riley is pretrial detention.
Prosecutors want court to order Riley make regular check-ins, prohibit international travel and retain no "firearms" ...

Judge schedules Riley to return to court October 26 at 12:30p (virtually) for arraignment

Riley, 50, is a 25-year veteran of the US Capitol Police Dept and member of the agency's K-9 unit