

Just over a month ago, the Washington County Commission received an anonymous letter that raised concerns about the then-Washington County Sheriff, Nate Brooksby. On the same day, the county commission forwarded the letter to the Washington County Attorney's Office for review and potential action. After a preliminary investigation, the Washington County Attorney's Office forwarded the letter to the Utah Attorney General's Office.

The Utah Attorney General's Office reviewed the letter and declined to take any action. That office concluded that nothing in the letter appeared to be criminal in nature, but asked to be kept informed, and recommended that Washington County hire an outside private law firm to provide an independent investigation.

On March 27, 2026, the county commissioners met with complainants to discuss the allegations. Based on the evidence provided in that meeting, the commissioners determined that there was adequate, credible information that would justify hiring a private law firm for an independent investigation, per the Attorney General's recommendation.

As a courtesy, the county commissioners called Brooksby on March 27, 2026 to notify him that allegations had been made and that they intended to hire an outside law firm to investigate. During the call, Sheriff Brooksby denied any wrongdoing. The county commissioners did not ask for a resignation, but Sheriff Brooksby offered his resignation that same day and requested a severance payment. Brooksby signed a separation agreement in which he agreed to resign, and the county agreed to pay the severance he requested. The parties signed an amendment the next day to clarify that Brooksby was not obligated under the separation agreement to withdraw his candidacy in the current sheriff election.

Throughout this process, the Washington County Commission and Attorney's Office discussed potential outcomes with the complainants, who made it clear that if Sheriff Brooksby resigned, they did not wish for their concerns to be pursued further. Washington County is respecting their wishes.

Undersheriff Barry Golding is now Acting-Washington County Sheriff. The Washington County Commission has full confidence in Golding's abilities to lead the Sheriff's Office while the process for making the final interim appointment moves forward.