

J. Connolly Open Forum BOS 12/13/2022

December 13, 2022

From: Joseph Connolly, M.A.

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Copy: El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer
El Dorado County Counsel

Subj: Commissioner Grimoldi / Board Approval of Seditious Ties

Dear Supervisors:

On December 6, 2022 I submitted information to you that members of the extremist groups Oath Keepers and Proud Boys had been found guilty of seditious conspiracy against the United States, as others await trial on the same charge.

I also submitted information that commissioner Grimoldi approved of her local group, Boots on the Ground Cali ("BOTGC") expanding to Southern California, where one of the expansion organizers "knows most of the Patriots, P[roud] B[oys], etc."

Among those groups that BOTGC mentions are persons indicted and convicted for other crimes related to the seditious conspiracy carried out against Congress on January 6, 2021. This letter highlights two of those Southern California individuals and their criminal activity—one "Patriot" Oath Keeper and one Proud Boy.

Your support of those who attacked the Congress in order to obstruct a constitutional act by force is counter to the oath of office you took freely and without reservation; that is, a legal duty to support and defend the United States Constitution from its enemies.

When you voted to affirm Grimoldi as an El Dorado County commissioner you said she was a reflection of the Board. What, then, does she reflect about you? Is it your support of extremist ties to sedition and other crimes, or your legal obligation to support our nation's Constitution? Your silence to the latter makes that matter an open question.

Sincerely,

s/Joseph Connolly

COMMISSIONER GRIMOLDI APPROVAL OF SEDITIOUS TIES

I. INTRODUCTION

As of December 12, 2022, six members of the extremist groups Oath Keepers and Proud Boys have been found guilty of seditious conspiracy against the United States in relation to their January 6, 2021 attack of the U.S. Capitol. Nine other members of those groups are standing trial on that charge this month.

The purpose of those conspiracies were to “oppose the lawful transfer of presidential power by force, by opposing by force the authority of the Government of the United States and by preventing, hindering, or delaying by force the execution of the laws governing the transfer of power, including the Twelfth and Twentieth Amendments to the [United States] Constitution and Title 3, Section 15 of the United States Code.”¹

Other members of those groups, who also identified themselves as “Patriots”, have been arrested, indicted, convicted and sentenced for additional crimes undertaken as part of the larger seditious conspiracies.

Two of those individuals are highlighted below as examples of the groups that commissioner Grimoldi approves of—individuals who knowingly and willfully took part in violence against the United States and its officers on January 6, 2021.

II. OATH KEEPER AND “PATRIOT” JEFFREY SCOTT BROWN

On December 6, 2022, Jeffrey Scott Brown of Santa Ana, California, and two others were the first U.S. Capitol attack defendants to be convicted at trial for assaulting police officers with pepper spray.²

Brown was indicted on June 9, 2021 and found guilty of all seven counts he was charged with, including a felony count of assaulting, resisting, or impeding law enforcement officers using a dangerous weapon.³ (See Figure 1.)

¹ See e.g., superseding indictment of Oath Keepers at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1514896/download>.

² See Dept. of Justice press release at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/three-men-are-first-capitol-breach-defendants-convicted-trial-assaulting-police-officers>.

³ See indictment at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1473381/download>.

On January 5, 2021 Brown posted a photo of himself on the DC Brigade chat with the caption, "Boarding LAX." That evening, Brown made a post on his Parler account, "Wow, made it to DC, lots of Patriots. ... Tomorrow will be EPIC! ... I'm connecting with a bunch of patriots from Huntington Beach in the morning to see our President. Then we will march on to the Capitol as history unfolds."⁶ (See Figure 2.)

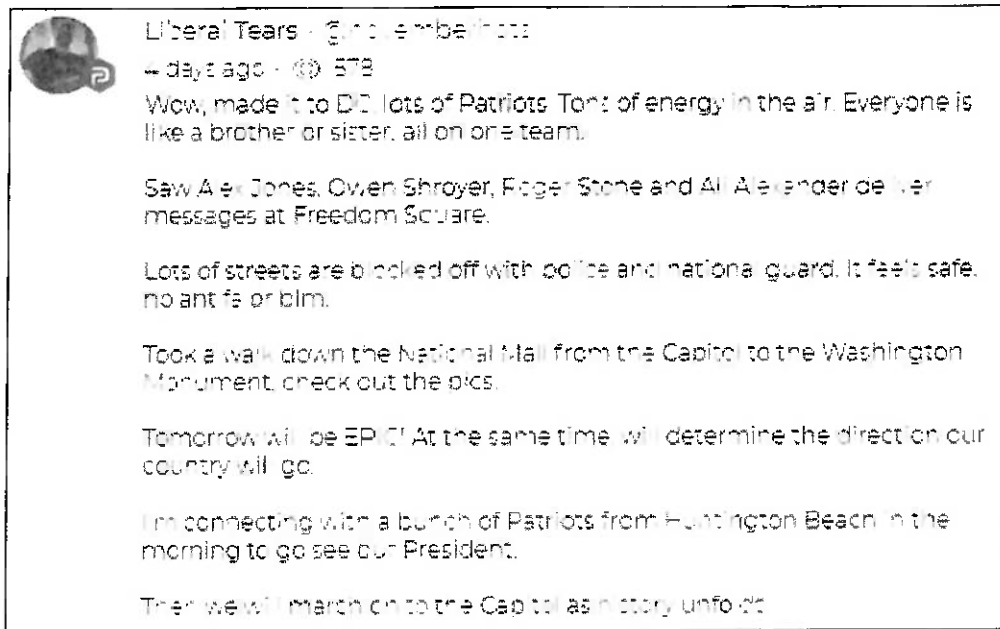


Figure 2
Brown Parler Post – January 5, 2021 – Washington, DC

**B.
ASSAULT ON FEDERAL OFFICERS AND VIOLENCE AT THE U.S. CAPITOL**

On January 6, 2021 Brown participated in some of the most violent attacks on police officers guarding the U.S. Capitol and members of Congress. He was sought by the FBI as "BOLO172-AFO" and arrested on August 26, 2021.

Brown's assaults included spraying officers with a chemical irritant inside a confined tunnel area, and joining in physical assaults by other insurrectionists armed with shields and batons stolen from the officers.⁷ (See Figures 3-5.)

⁶ See Brown Statement of Facts at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1428081/download>; <https://twitter.com/DianthaSol/status/1434328985366839301/photo/3>.

⁷ See Dept. of Justice press release of Brown's arrest, along with David Nicholas Dempsey, at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/california-men-arrested-assault-law-enforcement-during-jan-6-capitol-breach>.

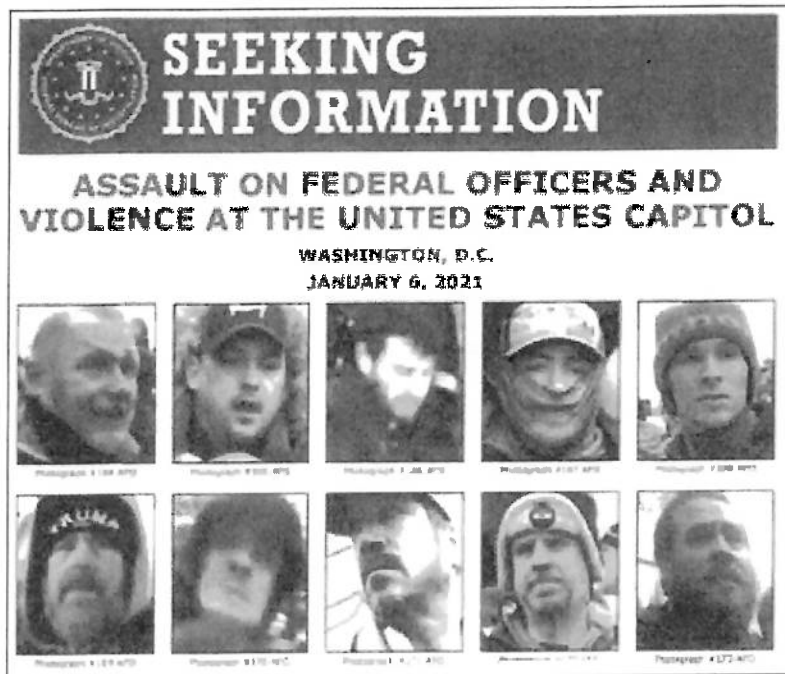


Figure 3

FBI Notice - Assault on Federal Officers and Violence by Brown and others



Figure 4

Brown assaulting officers with chemical irritant - January 6, 2021



Figure 5
Brown leading “EPIC!” mob assault on officers – January 6, 2021

III. PROUD BOY DAVID DEMPSEY

Proud Boy David Dempsey of Southern California was arrested with Brown on August 26, 2021 for assaults against officers in the same tunnel attacks participated in by Brown. He was indicted on eleven counts including civil disorder, obstruction of Congress, and assaulting officers using a dangerous weapon.

Dempsey assaulted officers with a number of weapons including chemical irritants, a crutch, and metal poles.⁸ (See e.g., Figures 6–7.) He remains in jail awaiting trial.

⁸ See e.g., Statement of Offense at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1428151/download>; Indictment at <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21059945/210909-dempsey-indictment.pdf>; Dept. of Justice press release at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/california-men-arrested-assault-law-enforcement-during-jan-6-capitol-breach>.



Figure 6
Dempsey assaulting officers guarding U.S. Capitol tunnel - January 6, 2021

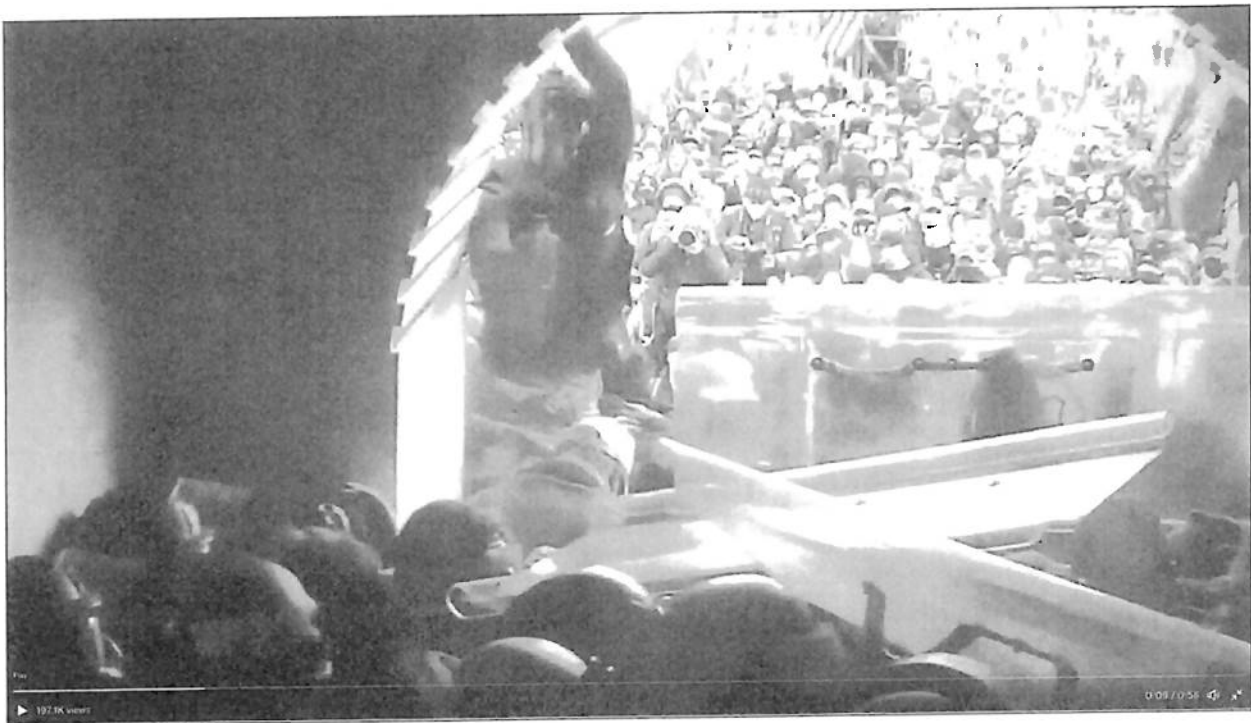


Figure 7
Dempsey assaulting officers with chemical irritant - January 6, 2021

Prior to unlawfully entering the restricted U.S. Capitol grounds Dempsey posed with a gallows in the background and threatened to hang members of Congress.⁹ (See Figures 8-9.)



Figure 8
Dempsey gesturing to gallows while making threats - January 6, 2021

Them worthless fuckin' shitholes like Jerry Nadler, fuckin' Pelosi They don't need a jail cell. They need to hang from these motherfuckers [pointing to gallows]. They need to get the point across that the time for peace is over. For four, or five years really, they've been fuckin' demonizing us, belittling us, ... doing everything they can to stop what this is, and people are sick of that shit. Hopefully one day soon we really have someone hanging from one of these motherfuckers....

Figure 9
Dempsey's threats against members of Congress - January 6, 2021

⁹ See Statement of Offense, pages 2-3, at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1428151/download>.

A.
HISTORY OF ASSAULTS

Dempsey has a history of physical assaults in conjunction with other Proud Boys, including using bear spray in 2019 and during a Sacramento political rally in November, 2020.¹⁰ (See e.g., Figure 10.)

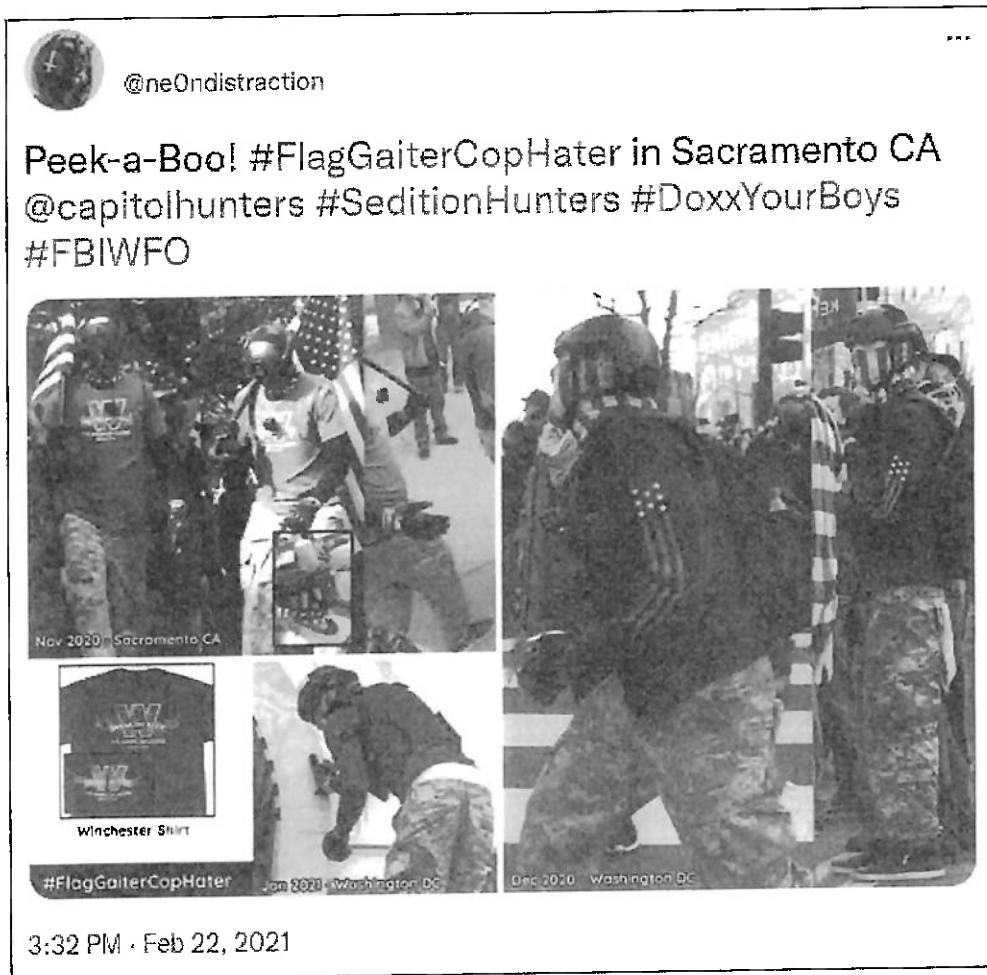


Figure 10
Dempsey's connections to Proud Boys violence during 2020-2021

¹⁰ See e.g., pages 16-17 of Statement of Facts at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1428151/download>; <https://twitter.com/neondistraction/status/1363995153099153412>.

III.

GRIMOLDI'S APPROVAL AND PROMOTION OF SEDITIONARY TIES

On October 31, 2022 Grimoldi replied with a "Love" to a Facebook post by Aaron Bate, founder of BOTGC, of the "exciting news" that BOTGC was expanding to Southern California. That news included one of the organizer's ties to "most of the Patriots, P[roud] B[oy]s, etc. in So Cal."¹¹

On November 23, 2022 Grimoldi personally promoted the BOTGC outreach to extremists convicted of seditious conspiracy and assaults against police officers as "get[ting] involved in a non political community organization," omitting any recognition of her membership in BOTGC or of extremists ties to that group. (See Figures 11-12.)

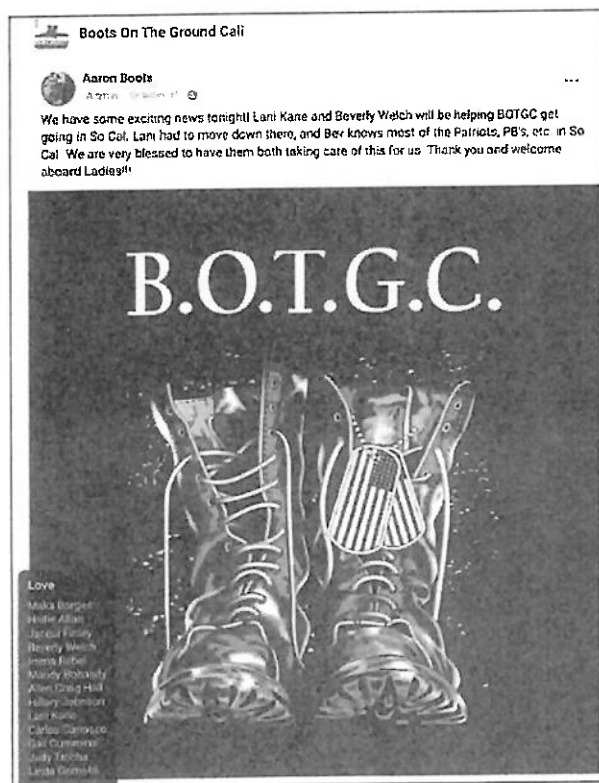


Figure 11
BOTGC expansion to Southern California
"Patriots" and "PB's etc."



Figure 12
Grimoldi's promotion of BOTGC
outreach in Southern California

¹¹ See pages 10-11 of Joseph Connolly letter "Seditious Conspiracy Outcomes and Implications," dated December 6, 2022.