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Court of Common Pleas

**New Case Electronically Filed: COMPLAINT
February 17, 2026 11:40**

By: PETER G. PATTAKOS 0082884

Confirmation Nbr. 3761263

FERAS HAMDAN, M.D.

CV 26 133225

vs.

MAX L. MILLER

Judge: WILLIAM F. B. VODREY

Pages Filed: 29

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

<p>FERAS HAMDAN, M.D. c/o The Pattakos Law Firm LLC 5324 Fleet Ave., 2nd floor Cleveland, Ohio 44105,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff, vs.</p> <p>MAX L. MILLER 435 Oakmoor Road Bay Village, Ohio 44140,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p>	<p>Case No. _____</p> <p>Judge _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complaint with Jury Demand</p>
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I. Introduction

1. Last June, U.S. Congressman Max Miller (R, OH-7), the Defendant in this lawsuit, made national headlines smearing Westlake doctor, Plaintiff Feras Hamdan, MD, as an “unhinged,” “deranged” antisemite who “threatened to kill” Miller and his family and “ran him off the road” while the two were driving in their respective vehicles on Interstate 90 near Cleveland. As a result of Miller’s accusations, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor charged Hamdan with ethnic intimidation and tampering with evidence, both felonies, along with misdemeanor counts of aggravated menacing and menacing.

2. Immediately after the alleged “antisemitic road rage” incident, Miller took to X.com, posting a video wherein he accused Dr. Hamdan of having “assaulted” him by an act of “blatant antisemitic violence,” and further stated as follows:

“As I was driving to work, some unhinged, deranged man decided to lay on his horn and run me off the road when he couldn’t get my attention to show me a Palestinian flag. Not to mention ‘death to Israel,’ death to me — that he wanted to kill me and my family. Thank God my daughter was not in my vehicle or anybody else at the time. We know exactly who you are. ... We will not hide, and I will continue to fight against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all other

forms of hate. If you have an issue, take it to our office. If you want to run me off the road, that's a different story. We know who you are young man and the police are going to be paying you a visit, and I hope what you did this morning is worth it to you and anyone else who plans on doing this to anyone within our district, state, or country.”

3. 911 call records further show that Miller told emergency dispatchers that Hamdan was “a full Palestinian guy” who “cut [him] off,” “flipp[ed] him off,” and “said he wanted to kill me and my daughter, verbatim.” Miller, who repeated these accusations in police interviews, also told 911 dispatchers that Hamdan “rolled down his window and said that I’m going to cut your throat and your daughter’s, [a]nd he said you’re a dirty Jew, I’m going to f*ck*ng kill you all, and I know who you are and where you live.”

4. Based on Miller’s accusations, Dr. Hamdan’s workplace, a medical office, was raided by more than a dozen police officers, Dr. Hamdan was arrested and charged, and the Rocky River Municipal Court set a \$500,000 bond for his release — an amount typically reserved for accused murderers.

5. From there, a tidal wave of local and national news coverage ensued, depicting Dr. Hamdan as an antisemitic “Jew hater” who had “run” a U.S. Congressman “off the road” and threatened to kill him and his family.

6. Despite the rush to judgment by the police, prosecutors, and the press as to Miller’s facially implausible and stereotypically Islamophobic accusations against Dr. Hamdan — including that Miller could have heard any threats from Hamdan while the two were traveling in their respective vehicles while driving at highway speeds — these accusations were shortly revealed to be false by evidence produced in the criminal proceedings. This included data pulled from the Tesla vehicle that Hamdan was driving, which showed that Hamdan’s windows were up during the entire alleged incident, and that the movement of his steering wheel was inconsistent with any effort to swerve or “run Miller off the road” during the times in question. Dr. Hamdan’s defense team also produced a

report from an acoustics expert whose analysis confirmed the common sense conclusion that, even if Hamdan's and Miller's windows were both down at the time of the alleged incident, any words that Hamdan would have shouted while the two were traveling in their vehicles at highway speeds would have been "scrambled and unintelligible." Additionally, Miller, in his post at X.com, had initially accused Dr. Hamdan of "throw[ing] a Palestinian flag out of the window" of his vehicle, but later edited his post to state that Hamdan had merely "show[n] a Palestinian flag" before taking off.

7. Based on this evidence showing that Miller fabricated his accusations, the Prosecutor offered Dr. Hamdan the chance to plead to expungable misdemeanors, including minor misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, and disorderly conduct for engaging in "turbulent behavior," as well as a second-degree misdemeanor charge of "obstructing official business" which was based on the fact that Hamdan had, for personal reasons, deleted a few messages he had sent to close friends and family members about his interaction with Miller before he knew that these events would be subject to a police investigation.

8. Having pleaded to these dramatically reduced charges, which do not reflect any responsibility for "assaulting" Mr. Miller, "menacing" him, "running him off the road," or threatening to kill him or his family, Hamdan now asserts claims of defamation, false light invasion of privacy, and false writing in violation of R.C. § 2921.03 against Miller under Ohio law.

II. Parties

9. Plaintiff Feras Hamdan, M.D. is a resident of Westlake, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

10. Defendant Max L. Miller is a resident of Bay Village, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and is the elected U.S. Representative for Ohio's 7th Congressional District.

III. Jurisdiction and Venue

11. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this case under R.C. 2305.01 because the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.00.

12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant resides in and conducts business in Ohio.

13. Venue is proper in this Court under Civ. R. 3(C)(1) and (3) because Defendant resides in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and Defendant conducted the activities which gave rise to Plaintiff's claims for relief in Cuyahoga County.

IV. Facts

A. Congressman Max Miller has gained notoriety amongst his Ohio constituents for his anti-Palestinian hate speech.

14. In October 2023, as the conflict between Palestinians and the Israeli occupation escalated, Miller declared on national television that Palestine would be “eviscerated and go away here shortly as we’re going to turn [Gaza] into a parking lot.”¹ In that same interview where he called for the evisceration of the millions of Palestinian civilians who live in Gaza, including Dr. Hamdan’s grandmother and many of his relatives, Miller claimed that there is no “Palestinian flag,” as “they’re not a state, they’re a territory,” and instead called it a “flag of terrorism.”²

15. Beyond the national outrage, amongst his numerable Palestinian constituents in the Seventh Congressional District of Ohio,³ Miller’s statements wishing death and destruction on the people of Gaza gained much notoriety and caused much distrust among this community, including Dr.

¹ *US Congressman: Palestine Will Be Turned Into a Parking Lot,’* MIDDLE EAST MONITOR (Oct. 26, 2023, 4:59 PM), www.middleeastmonitor.com/20231026-us-congressman-palestine-will-be-turned-into-a-parking-lot; *see also Max Miller: I Will Not Tolerate Hate or Antisemitism in the Halls of Congress,* FOX NEWS (Oct. 10, 2023), www.foxnews.com/video/6338813818112.

² Palestine has been recognized by 148 of the 193 UN Member states, including the United Kingdom and France. *See Recognition of Palestine: A Long History,* U.N. (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://unric.org/en/recognition-of-palestine-a-long-history/>.

³ Cities such as Westlake and North Olmsted in Miller’s district are home to a large Palestinian diaspora. *See, e.g.,* Mark Oprea, *North Olmsted Blooms as a Hub for Cleveland’s Palestinian Diaspora,* CLEVELAND SCENE (Mar. 19, 2024), www.clevscene.com/news/north-olmsted-blooms-as-a-hub-for-clevelands-palestinian-diaspora-43929839

Hamdan and his close friends and family members.

B. Feras Hamdan, a Palestinian American doctor, sees Congressman Miller during his commute to work and shows him the Palestinian flag on his phone.

16. On the morning of June 19, 2025, Dr. Hamdan, a first-generation Palestinian American, was on his way to work as a family medicine physician on I-90 East after stopping for a cup of coffee at 7 Brew in Avon when he saw a black RAM 1500 TRX that resembled a vehicle owned by one of his colleagues. As Dr. Hamdan drove up to the left side of the truck to see whether it was in fact his colleague, he was shocked to see that it was the Congressman Miller.

17. At the moment, Dr. Hamdan was cognizant of the tens of thousands of innocent children and other civilians in Gaza,⁴ including his own family members, and understandably, had a visceral

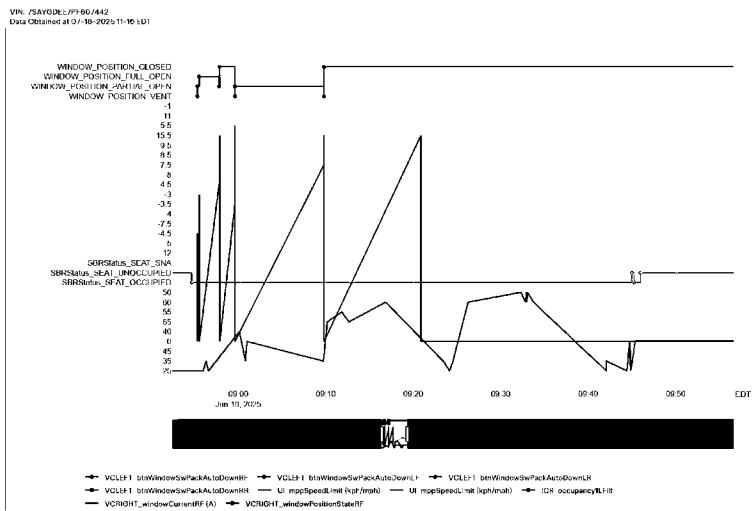
⁴ Israel's military actions against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank have been characterized as genocidal by the great majority of nations on earth, as well as many global institutions, and their leaders—including The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders, and most recently, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, described by BBC as “the world’s leading association of genocide scholars”—unequivocally characterize as genocidal. According to a study published more than a year ago in *The Lancet*, one of the world’s oldest and most cited medical journals, “a conservative estimate of the death toll attributable to the current conflict in Gaza” was “up to 186,000 or more.”

See, e.g., Emir Nader, *BBC News*, “Israel committing genocide in Gaza, world’s leading experts say,” (Sept. 1, 2025) <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cde3eyzdr63o> ; Doctors Without Borders, “Gaza death trap: MSF report exposes Israel’s campaign of total destruction,” (Dec. 19, 2024) <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/gaza-death-trap-msf-report-exposes-israels-campaign-total-destruction> ; United Nations, “UN Special Committee finds Israel’s warfare methods in Gaza consistent with genocide, including use of starvation as weapon of war,” (Nov. 14, 2024) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/un-special-committee-finds-israels-warfare-methods-gaza-consistent-genocide> ; Amnesty International, “Amnesty International investigation concludes Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza,” (Dec. 5, 2024) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/12/amnesty-international-concludes-israel-is-committing-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/> ; Khatib, Rasha et al., “Counting the dead in Gaza: difficult but essential,” *The Lancet*, Volume 404, Issue 10449, 237–238 (July 20, 2024), [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext) ; *See also*, The Government and Republic of South Africa’s Application Instituting Proceedings against Israel in The Hague, (filed Dec. 28, 2023) <https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/South-Africa-v-Israel.pdf>

reaction to seeing the very same representative who purported to represent so many local Palestinians in the U.S. Congress and had called for his ancestral homeland to be turned into a “parking lot.”

18. Dr. Hamdan proceeded to pull out his phone to take a video of the Congressman, to make a record of this chance encounter, then proceeded to search on his phone for a Palestinian flag and then pressed his phone screen against his window for Mr. Miller to see, to remind him that he does, in fact, have constituents of Palestinian origin, and in remembrance of the tens of thousands of children and other civilians killed by historically unprecedented Israeli bombings that Miller full-throatedly supported.⁵

19. Notably, at this time, which was around 9:20 AM, Dr. Hamdan’s right window—that was facing Miller—remained closed throughout the interaction, as data stored and pulled from the doctor’s vehicle, a Tesla sedan, confirmed.



⁵ By one estimate, as of April 2024 the bomb tonnage dropped on Gaza was more than 70,000 tons, surpassing the combined bomb tonnage dropped on Dresden, Hamburg, and London in World War II. See “200 days of military attack on Gaza: A horrific death toll amid int'l. failure to stop Israel's genocide of Palestinians,” Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. 24 April 2024, <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6282/200-days-of-military-attack-on-Gaza:-A-horrific-death-toll-amid-intl.-failure-to-stop-Israel%20%80%99s-genocide-of-Palestinians>; Pape, Robert A. (21 June 2024), “Hamas Is Winning, Why Israel’s Failing Strategy Makes Its Enemy Stronger” Foreign Affairs. ISSN 0015-7120, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/israel/middle-east-robert-pape>

C. **Congressman Miller maliciously frames and defames Dr. Hamdan, claiming that Hamdan shouted that he would slit Miller and his one-year-old daughter's throat, and called him a "dirty Jew," even though was impossible for the congressman to hear any words coming out of the doctor's mouth while the two were traveling in their respective vehicles on the highway.**

20. Dr. Hamdan's brandishing of the Palestinian flag on his phone apparently triggered Miller, who proceeded to call 911 to make utterly false and defamatory accusations against the doctor, seizing this as an opportunity to manufacture a narrative of victimhood to elicit sympathy and generate publicity for his pro-Israel political stance.⁶

21. As confirmed by an acoustical expert during the criminal proceedings, it would have been impossible for Mr. Miller to hear any words that came out of Dr. Hamdan's mouth on the highway, whether the windows of the vehicles were closed or open, as any words that Hamdan would have shouted while the two were traveling in their vehicles at highway speeds would have been "scrambled and unintelligible." See **Exhibit 1**, Cerjan Acoustics Expert Report.

22. With full knowledge of the falsity of his statements, and knowing that his accusations would inevitably be associated with the individual who was driving the black Tesla that day, who made no effort to conceal his license plate number or his identity, Mr. Miller proceeded to tell the 911 dispatcher that "I have somebody who has cut me off ... and is yelling to kill me... I'm a little

⁶ As a result of these false accusations, numerous politicians across the party line offered Mr. Miller sympathy for experiencing "political violence and antisemitism," that never occurred. See X post by U.S. Rep. Lisa McClain, x.com/RepLisaMcClain/status/1935839446210933154; X post by U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, x.com/SteveScalise/status/1935843981667004638; X post by U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, <https://x.com/VernBuchanan/status/1935886649243976033>; X post by U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer, <https://x.com/GOPMajorityWhip/status/1935892621756690510>; X post by Mike Johnson, <https://x.com/SpeakerJohnson/status/1935873887880839637>; see also Victor Nava, *Jewish GOP Congressman Says He Was 'Run Off the Road' By a 'Deranged Man' With a Palestinian Flag: 'Blatant Antisemitic Violence'*, NY POST (June 19, 2025, 6:44 PM) nypost.com/2025/06/19/us-news/rep-max-miller-says-he-was-run-off-the-road-by-a-deranged-man-with-a-palestinian-flag ("We condemn in the strongest possible terms the attack on Congressman Max Miller and his family and are thankful they are safe," Democratic House leaders said in a joint statement. "The rise in political violence in this country is unacceptable. This is a moment of crisis that requires Congress to act decisively in order to ensure the safety of every single Member who serves in the People's House."").

shaken at the moment, because I got death threats. And I mean, he's a full Palestinian guy now... how do I know I'm safe later today with my daughter? ... He said he wanted to kill me and my daughter, verbatim ... he rolled down his window and said that I'm going to cut your throat and your daughter's. And he said you're a dirty Jew. I'm going to f*ck*ng kill you all. And I know who you are and where you live. And I followed him. And he rolled down his window, and I rolled down my window, so I could hear what he was saying... What's going to happen? This guy just said he's going to kill me. And he said he was going to kill my daughter, who's almost two years old... and was clearly trying to hurt me.”⁷ Mr. Miller identified Dr. Hamdan to dispatch with the license plate of his black Tesla that he proceeded to follow.

23. Notably, beyond the fact that Miller did not hear a single word come out of Dr. Hamdan's mouth, the doctor did not “cut off” Miller either, as data stored by and pulled from the Tesla similarly indicated that no erratic steering movements were made.⁸ Moreover, as Dr. Hamdan exited the freeway using the McKinley Avenue exit in an attempt to avoid Mr. Miller, who was now following him persistently and had his hand on a gun, as he professed on the 911-call, Hamdan paused in the emergency lane since he was followed, and Mr. Miller proceeded to block the exit's traffic, causing numerous cars to honk their horns at him. Eventually, Dr. Hamdan departed from the emergency lane and drove away, believing his interaction with Miller to have concluded.

24. Demonstrative of his dedication to generating his own political publicity at the expense of destroying Dr. Hamdan's reputation, Mr. Miller proceeded to post a video statement on X.com a few hours later regurgitating and embellishing the lies he had told to the 911 operator.⁹

⁷ **Exhibit 2**, Miller 911 Call, available at <https://thepattakoslawfirmllc.box.com/s/mzlk18vd7a7eabx75eol4skfo3xxewp8>

⁸ **Exhibit 3**, Tesla Steering Data.

⁹ Post available at: <https://x.com/MaxMillerOH/status/1935778720855241020> (June 19, 2025, 3:16 PM). Notably, the edit history indicates that Miller first untruthfully posted that Dr. Hamdan



Follow ...

The deranged hatred in this country has gotten out of control. Today I was run off the road in Rocky River, and the life of me and my family was threatened by a person who proceeded to show a Palestinian flag before taking off. I have filed a police report with Capitol Police and the local police department. We know who this person is and he will face justice.

As a Marine, a proud Jewish American and a staunch defender of Israel, I will not hide in the face of this blatant antisemitic violence.



25. In his video-recorded statement on X.com, Mr. Miller, knowing that his lies would be associated with the individual driving the black Tesla that day, who was Dr. Hamdan, misleadingly told his followers regarding the incident:

Let's make this abundantly clear to anyone who needs to see this, which is apparently, a lot of people. If you have an issue with a legislator... the appropriate thing to do is to reach out to them for a phone call to set up a meeting at one of our district offices. **What is not okay is to assault anyone, whether you're a member of congress or anybody else within our district while you are driving to work. Ohio-7, this morning as I was driving to work some unhinged deranged man decided to lay on his horn and run me off the road when he couldn't get my attention to show me a Palestinian flag, not to mention death to Israel, death to**

“thr[e]w a Palestinian flag out the window of their vehicle before taking off,” and then changed it ten minutes later to “show a Palestinian flag.” Mr. Miller apparently told officials that same falsity, as numerous police officers scoured I-90 East searching for the non-existent flag. *See ¶ 31, below.*

me, that he wanted to kill me and my family. Thank god, my daughter was not in my vehicle or anybody else at the time. We know exactly who you are, I have gone about my day. I have carried on my meetings and we will not hide, and I will continue to fight against antisemitism, islamophobia, and all other forms of hate. You have an issue, take it to our office. **You want to run me off the road, that's a different story. We know who you are, young man, and the police are going to be paying you a visit.** And I hope what you did this morning is worth it to you and anyone else who plans to do this to anybody within our district, state, or country.

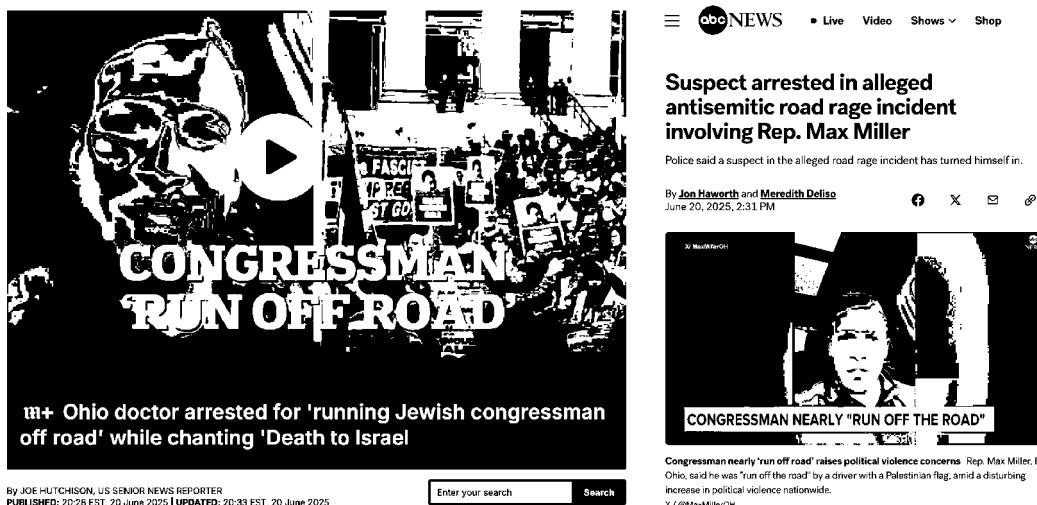
26. After publishing this defamatory statement on his X.com account, in a post that has since been viewed 1.2 million times, Miller proceeded to visit the Rocky River Police Department within an hour to file a police report and speak with investigating officers. In his hand-written statement, Miller again defamed Dr. Hamdan, the black Tesla driver, claiming that “[h]e told me that he was going to kill me, my family, free Palestine, [and] death to Israel. He screamed much more to me than that, but that is what I can recall … As I was on the phone with dispatch the operator heard the gentleman yell at me as he pulled beside me … he began to yell more nonsense at me laced with vile rhetoric.”¹⁰ He additionally falsely told officers that, the Tesla driver, Dr. Hamdan, was “screaming … at the top of his lungs, saying he wants to kill me,” and “he started screaming all those obscenities at me,” and “he said he knew where I lived [and] death to Israel, all this stuff… F*ck you, I’m going to kill you.” Mr. Miller additionally lied that Dr. Hamdan said he would “turn [Miller’s] house into a parking lot” and that he “underst[oo]d why he said that one.”

27. Based on Miller’s accusations, Dr. Hamdan’s workplace, a medical office, was raided by more than a dozen police officers, Dr. Hamdan was arrested and charged, and the Rocky River Municipal Court set a \$500,000 bond for his release—an amount typically reserved for accused murderers.

28. And soon after Mr. Miller’s defamatory statements regarding Dr. Hamdan were made with

¹⁰ **Exhibit 4**, Miller’s statement to Rocky River PD.

the intention of punishing his constituent for his mild expression of political dissent from the mass murder of innocent children and civilians, Dr. Hamdan was subject to a tidal wave of local, national, and international media coverage smearing him as a menacing and “deranged” “antisemite” who threatened to kill a U.S. Congressman and his young daughter, and who was eventually charged by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office for “ethnic intimidation” based on alleged “aggravated menacing,” as well as “menacing,” and “tampering with evidence,” all solely based on Mr. Miller’s malicious lies and his revolting abuse of his trusted position as a representative of the people of Ohio.¹¹



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Suspect arrested in alleged antisemitic road rage incident involving Rep. Max Miller

Police said a suspect in the alleged road rage incident has turned himself in.

By **Jon Haworth and Meredith Deliso** June 20, 2025, 2:31 PM

CONGRESSMAN NEARLY "RUN OFF THE ROAD"

Congressman nearly 'run off road' raises political violence concerns. Rep. Max Miller, R-Ohio, said he was "run off the road" by a driver with a Palestinian flag, amid a disturbing increase in political violence nationwide.

X / @MaxMillerOH

¹¹ See, e.g., Jane Matousek, *Doctor Charged with Threatening to Kill Rep. Miller and His Family*, CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS (June 20, 2025, 6:18 PM), www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local_news/man-threatens-ohio-jewish-congressman/article_1cacb8e3-b9d7-4ae4-ab36-9f77a573ec41.html; Dan Gooding & Gabe Whisnant, *Who Is Feras Hamdan? Doctor Who Allegedly Drove Congressman Off Road*, NEWSWEEK (June 20, 2025, 5:24 PM), www.newsweek.com/feras-hamdan-ohio-republican-max-miller-road-rage-2088545; Justin Dennis, *Local Doctor Indicted on Ethnic Intimidation in Threats Against Jewish-American Congressman Max Miller*, FOX 8 (July 8, 2025, 5:39 PM), <https://fox8.com/news/local-doctor-indicted-on-ethnic-intimidation-in-threats-against-jewish-american-congressman-max-miller/>; Matthew Xiao, *Ohio Family Physician Charged After Allegedly Threatening To Kill Jewish Congressman in Anti-Semitic Outburst*, WASH. FREE BEACON (June 20, 2025), freebeacon.com/latest-news/ohio-family-physician-charged-after-allegedly-threatening-to-kill-jewish-congressman-in-anti-semitic-outburst/; see also *Feras Hamdan Indicted on Tampering With Evidence, Ethnic Intimidation, Among Other Charges for Threatening Congressman Max Miller and His Family*, CUY. COUNTY OFF. OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (July 8, 2025), www.ccprosecutor.us/feras-hamdan-indicted-threatening-congressman-max-miller.

Ohio police arrest man for allegedly running Jewish Congressman off the road, antisemitic slurs

Feras Hamdan, 36, of Ohio, was charged with aggravated menacing and ethnic intimidation.

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U.S. Rep. Max Miller, seen during an event hosted by the Rocky River Republicans in Cleveland, Ohio, April 23, 2022. (Photo: AP/Handout via Reuters)

POLITICS

Alleged Jew hater arrested for trying to run Rep. Max Miller off road while showing Palestinian flag and using slurs

By Steven Nelson

Published June 20, 2025, 4:07 p.m. ET

Ohio congressman says he was 'run off the road' and 'threatened' by person with a Palestinian flag



Ohio police have arrested a man for allegedly attempting to run Republican Rep. Max Miller off the road Thursday while using anti-Jewish slurs and flying a Palestinian flag.

29. Reveling that his gamesmanship and malice-ridden lies were destroying Dr. Hamdan's formerly well-regarded reputation as a compassionate doctor, Mr. Miller posted on his X account that, "[o]ur justice system works," reposting the Prosecutor's Office's tweet that incorrectly claimed Dr. Hamdan "threatened Congressman Max Miller and his family."



Congressman Max Miller   @RepMaxMiller · Jul 8, 2025

Our justice system works.



...

Thank you @CapitolPolice for your support.



Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's O... @CuyahogaPro... · Jul 8, 2025

A Cuyahoga County grand jury has returned an indictment charging Feras Hamdan, 36, for Tampering With Evidence, Ethnic Intimidation, among other charges for threatening Congressman Max Miller in Rocky River

...

County Prosecutor's Office
Haley
HATE RELEASE

as Hamdan Indicted on Tampering With Evidence, Ethnic Intimidation, Among Other Charges for Threatening Congressman Max Miller and His Family

READ FULL PRESS RELEASE: WWW.CCPROSECUTOR.US

eatening violence towards an elected official and their family is unacceptable and must not be tolerated.

type of mindless behavior is happening so frequently in our country and it must come to an end. We are thankful no one was injured during this incident and for the exceptional investigation by the Rocky River Police Department which led to this prompt arrest and indictment."

PROSECUTOR MICHAEL C. O'MALLEY

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30. Despite the rush to judgment by the police, prosecutors, and the press as to Miller's facially implausible and stereotypically Islamophobic accusations against Dr. Hamdan — including that Miller could have heard any threats from Hamdan while the two were traveling in their respective vehicles while driving at highway speeds — these accusations were shortly revealed to be false by aforementioned evidence produced in the criminal proceedings.

31. This evidence included data pulled from the Tesla vehicle that Hamdan was driving, which showed that Hamdan's windows were up during the entire alleged incident, and that the movement of his steering wheel was inconsistent with any effort to swerve or "run Miller off the road" during the times in question. Dr. Hamdan's defense team also produced a report from an acoustics expert whose analysis confirmed the common sense conclusion that, even if Hamdan's and Miller's windows were both down at the time of the alleged incident, any words that Hamdan would have shouted while the two were traveling in their vehicles at highway speeds would have been "scrambled and unintelligible." Additionally, Miller, in his post at X.com, had initially accused Dr. Hamdan of "throw[ing] a Palestinian flag out of the window" of his vehicle, but later edited his post to state that Hamdan had merely "show[n] a Palestinian flag" before taking off.

← **Edit History**

Latest post



Max Miller @MaxMillerOH · Jun 19, 2025

...

The deranged hatred in this country has gotten out of control. Today I was run off the road in Rocky River, and the life of me and my family was threatened by a person who proceeded to show a Palestinian flag before taking off. I have filed a police report with Capitol Police and the local police department. We know who this person is and he will face justice.

As a Marine, a proud Jewish American and a staunch defender of Israel, I will not hide in the face of this blatant antisemitic violence.

Version history



Max Miller @MaxMillerOH · Jun 19, 2025

...

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As a Marine, a proud Jewish American and a staunch defender of Israel, I will not hide in the face of this blatant antisemitic violence.

32. Hamdan's attorneys additionally pointed out to prosecutors Miller's obvious bias against Palestinian people, including his many Palestinian constituents on the west side of Greater Cleveland who have taken issue with Miller's hateful public rhetoric toward them and their homeland. Indeed, Dr. Hamdan admitted that he honked his vehicle's horn at Miller when he noticed the Congressman driving on the highway in the lane next to his vehicle on the morning in question, and that he showed Miller a Palestine flag that he had pulled up his phone to indicate his disapproval with the Congressman's hateful statements. As the evidence showed, however, this was the sum and substance of the interaction between the two, and Miller was so upset by Hamdan's mild expression of dissent toward him that he fabricated the implausible and nakedly Islamophobic accusations that Hamdan had threatened his life.

33. Based on this evidence showing that Miller fabricated his accusations, the Prosecutor offered Dr. Hamdan the chance to plead to expungable misdemeanors, including minor misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, and disorderly conduct for engaging in "turbulent behavior," as well as a second-degree misdemeanor charge of "obstructing official business" which was based on the fact that Hamdan had, for personal reasons, deleted a few messages he had sent to close friends and family members about his interaction with Miller before he knew that these events would be subject

to a police investigation.

34. Having pleaded to these dramatically reduced charges, which do not reflect any responsibility for “assaulting” Mr. Miller, “menacing” him, “running him off the road,” or threatening to kill him or his family, Hamdan now asserts the following claims against Defendant Miller under Ohio law.

V. Causes of Action

Count One: Defamation

35. Plaintiff Hamdan reincorporates the foregoing paragraphs as if wholly rewritten herein.

36. This count is asserted against Mr. Miller in his personal capacity.

37. As alleged in this complaint, Mr. Miller, intentionally and maliciously, and/or recklessly, and wantonly caused the publication of numerous false and defamatory representations and statements against Dr. Hamdan.

38. This includes Miller’s false accusations that Dr. Hamdan “ran him off the road,” committed an act of “blatant antisemitic violence” against him, and threatened to kill him and his daughter, specifically by threatening to cut their throats, even though it was factually impossible for Miller to hear anything that came out of Dr. Hamdan’s mouth on I-90 when the interaction between the two occurred while they were driving in their respective vehicles.

39. Mr. Miller made those statements with knowledge of their falsity and with no remotely arguable purpose save to damage and ruin Plaintiff’s reputation by falsely smearing him as an angry and violent Palestinian, and to opportunistically publicize himself as a victim of antisemitism and political violence.

40. These representations, action, and statements by Mr. Miller intended to and have reflected negatively upon Plaintiff’s character by bringing him into ridicule, hatred, or contempt, and were intended to, or recklessly, or wantonly ignored the risk that they would do so, have affected him injuriously in his trade or profession, and have imputed upon him the commission of heinous crimes

he did not commit.

41. As a direct and proximate result of Mr. Miller's publication of false and defamatory statements about Dr. Hamdan, Plaintiff has suffered reputational harm both personally and professionally, as well as economic damages and mental distress, pain, and anguish.

Count Two: False Light Invasion of Privacy

42. Plaintiff Hamdan incorporate the foregoing paragraphs as if fully rewritten here.

43. This count is asserted against Mr. Miller in his personal capacity.

44. Ohio recognized a tort for false light invasion of privacy in *Welling v. Weisfield*, 113 Ohio St.3d 464, 2007-Ohio-2451, 866 N.E.2d 1051, ¶ 1, ¶ 61, the necessary elements of which are established by the allegations set forth in the above Count One and incorporated by reference.

45. Mr. Miller knew that his false statements, as detailed above, would damage Plaintiff by painting him in a false and extremely negative light, but chose to publish the statements anyway.

46. As a result of Mr. Miller's publication of these false and defamatory statements, Dr. Hamdan's personal and professional reputations have been destroyed, and he has suffered economic damages in the form of lost wages and earning capacity, as well as serious mental distress, pain, and anguish.

Count Three: R.C. § 2921.03 – False Writing

47. Plaintiff Hamdan incorporate the foregoing paragraphs as if fully rewritten here.

48. This count is asserted against Mr. Miller in his personal capacity.

49. By providing to the Rocky River Police Department and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office with materially false information concerning Plaintiff's "threatening" conduct, including by means of a hand-written statement, Mr. Miller knowingly attempted to use a materially false and fraudulent writing with malicious purpose, in bad faith, and in a wanton and reckless manner. Through the aforementioned conduct, Mr. Miller intended to improperly influence and hinder

Cleveland police officers and officials of the County Prosecutor's Office in the discharge of their official duties.

50. As a direct and proximate result of Mr. Miller's unlawful conduct, police and County prosecutors were improperly influenced and hampered in their ability to independently and impartially review the false criminal accusations that Defendants made against Plaintiff, resulting in Plaintiff's criminal indictment for conduct that was not criminal, and for which there was no probable cause to believe was criminal.

51. Mr. Miller's conduct, which was intentional, retaliatory, taken in the spirit of ill-will, hatred, and wanton disregard of Plaintiff's rights, which Miller knew had a great probability of causing, and which did cause Plaintiff to suffer substantial economic and non-economic harm, including, without limitation, mental anguish and emotional pain and suffering, attorney fees incurred in defending against the wrongful felony indictment, lost wages, and other economic losses.

VI. Prayer for Relief

Wherefore, Plaintiffs prays for compensatory damages against Defendant, in excess of \$25,000, together with punitive damages, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, and any other relief to which Plaintiff may be entitled or the Court deems just.

VII. Jury Demand

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial on all issues within the Complaint.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Peter Pattakos
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*Attorneys for Plaintiff Feras Hamdan,
M.D.*

January 26, 2026

Peter Pattakos
The Pattakos Lawfirm
101 Ghent Road
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333

THE STATE OF OHIO vs FERAS HAMDAN (CR-25-703449-A)

Expert Witness - Acoustical Analysis

I was retained by the Pattakos Law Firm to provide an expert opinion on acoustics concerning the criminal complaints filed against Dr. Feras Hamdan. More specifically, the prosecution claims that statements were vocalized by Dr. Hamdan and directed at Congressman Max Miller while driving in separate vehicles on I-90 during the morning of June 19, 2025. I was retained to examine the likelihood of the audibility of said statements. The following provides a summary of my qualifications, the questions I was asked to provide my opinion on, the methodology used to prepare my opinions, the findings of my analysis, and expert opinion based on my findings.

QUALIFICATIONS AS EXPERT ACOUSTICAL WITNESS

Mr. Jeff Cerjan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Kansas (1994) and is a full member of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE) and the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). With a career spanning over 25 years in structural dynamics and acoustics, Mr. Cerjan has conducted comprehensive noise studies across the United States and internationally. His extensive expertise covers a broad spectrum of noise and vibration sectors, including architectural, traffic, materials testing, oil and gas facilities, diverse power generation sources (e.g., wind turbines, conventional power plants, solar farms), various industrial facilities (e.g., LNG, chemical plants, cryptocurrency data centers), land development projects, mining operations (gold and gravel), and performance venues.

Specifically applicable to this analysis, Mr. Cerjan acoustically measures and models noise using some of the most advanced software and equipment including SoundPLAN v9.1, INSUL v10, and Larson Davis Model 831 Sound Level Meter. He has measured and modeled various complex acoustical situations regarding traffic noise, pavement noise, aircraft materials effectiveness, architectural noise, performance venue audibility, etc. Mr. Cerjan has been utilized as an expert witness in acoustics in about seven lawsuits and dozens of governmental hearings. His most recent testimony was for a shooting range in Kentucky and is currently retained for a data center in Texas.

Jeffrey Cerjan's resume is provided in Attachment A. Some general noise information is provided in Attachment B.

QUESTIONS ASKED TO PROVIDE OPINION

I have been retained to provide an expert analysis regarding the audibility and intelligibility of vocal communications between two moving vehicles. Specifically, I have been asked to determine whether a driver operating a Dodge Ram 1500 TRX could comprehend verbalizations from an individual in the driver's seat of a Tesla Model Y via the passenger-side window. This evaluation accounts for two distinct variables: (1) with the Tesla Model Y passenger window fully closed, and (2) with the Tesla Model Y passenger window fully open. In both scenarios, the Dodge Ram 1500 TRX driver-side window is assumed to be fully open while both vehicles are in motion at highway speeds.

METHODOLOGY

Since it wasn't practical to get these two specific vehicles side-by-side for a live test, we used a "measured-modeling" approach. Essentially, we gathered real-world sound data and plugged it into a professional simulation to estimate how much noise travels from one car to the other.

1. Getting the "Real World" Baseline

First, I needed to know how loud it already is inside a Dodge Ram at highway speeds. I took a 2026 Dodge Ram 1500 Tungsten out on the road at 55 mph and used a professional-grade sound meter (Larson Davis 831) to record the noise levels where the driver's head would be. I did this with the window up and then again with it down to get a full range of the "background noise".

2. Sizing Up the Vehicles

I used a Dodge Ram SHO for the physical measurements as this vehicle's dimensions are effectively the same as a TRX. I measured a Tesla Model Y to get the size and placement of the passenger window.

3. Passenger Window Noise Reduction

The Tesla Model Y commonly uses a laminated double-pane window, but we assumed a single pane for this assessment which provides about 3 dBA less noise reduction. We used our acoustics software (INSUL v10) to determine the amount of noise reduction for a 6mm laminated window.

4. Defining the "Yell"

I used a specific "vocal spectrum" from SoundPLAN which references an international standard (ISO 3382-3) that mimics the frequencies of a human voice. I then increased the "yelling" sound level to 80 dBA and then 90 dBA to see how those levels performed. Note while typical yelling noise is in these ranges, a personal test with our sound level meters suggest 90 dBA is on the higher range.

5. Running the Simulation

Finally, I put the vehicle sizes, the window types, the highway noise, and the yelling into SoundPLAN v9.1. The simulation was setup so the Tesla passenger window was directly across from the Dodge driver's window. This represents the loudest the yell would be expected for the other driver.

FINDINGS OF THE ANALYSIS

When we look at the results in the table below, we are comparing the sound of the yell reaching the truck against the "noise floor" or background noise which is the combined sound of the wind, tires on the pavement, and engine while driving at 55 mph.

In acoustics, there is a big difference between something being audible (hear a noise) and intelligible (actually understand the words). For example, car horns (tonal) are designed to pierce through broadband background noise even when they are quieter. Speech, however, is broadband and gets "masked" or drowned out as speech its frequencies are similar to highway background noise.

TABLE 1 – Noise Analysis Results

Condition	Tesla Window	Ram Window	Sound of the Yell (Inside the Ram)	Background Noise	Notes
Windows Up	Closed	Closed	Under 22 dBA	73 dBA	A person would not hear the yelling over the background noise. Inaudible and unintelligible. .
Windows Down	Open	Open	63 to 73 dBA	73 dBA	Maybe a muffled sound. Possibly a faint noise if the cars are perfectly aligned, but you almost certainly couldn't make out the words.

EXPERT OPINION

The following are my professional conclusions, stated to a degree of professional certainty:

1. Closed Tesla Windows

If the Tesla's windows are closed, a person yelling inside that car simply cannot be heard by someone in an adjacent vehicle. Between the car's insulation, the laminated glass, and the 73 dBA of wind and road noise at 55 mph, the sound of a voice is masked.

2. Open Tesla and Ram Windows

If the Tesla's passenger window is open and someone yells, the driver in the other vehicle with their window down could possibly hear a sound. However, there is a difference between hearing a noise and understanding a sentence. At highway speeds, the "white noise" of the wind and tires acts as a mask. Because the yell is roughly the same volume and frequency as the road noise, the words would likely be scrambled and unintelligible.

3. Horn Noise

It is important to note that you can't compare a human voice to a vehicle horn. A horn is "tonal" and it is a sharp, piercing sound specifically designed to cut through background noise, even when it's technically quieter. A human voice is "broadband" and soft by comparison; it doesn't have that piercing quality, which is why it gets drowned out by the road more than a horn or a siren.

Attachment A – Jeffrey Cerjan's Résumé

Professional Qualifications

Jeffrey M. Cerjan



Education:

B.S., Aerospace Engineering
University of Kansas, 1994

Professional Affiliations:

Institute of Noise Control Engineering
Acoustical Society of America

Agency Experience:

Federal Highway Administration
Federal Aviation Administration
Departments of Transportation (several)
Occupational Health and Safety Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
California Energy Commission
Montana Dept of Environmental Quality
World Bank
Ghana Environmental Protection Agency

Background:

Mr. Cerjan has been practicing in the field of noise and vibration engineering for over twenty-four years.

Mr. Cerjan worked for Raytheon Aircraft in design, systems, structural dynamics and acoustics. At Raytheon, he gained extensive experience in aircraft interior noise and vibration measurements, analysis and design as well as take-off noise testing, analysis and certification.

Mr. Cerjan then worked for The NORDAM Group where he established an acoustical engineering position for this principle supplier of integrated aircraft interiors.

At Hankard Environmental Inc, he has added industrial, mining, transportation, oil and gas, power generation, renewable energy, shooting ranges, music venues, architectural, etc. Mr. Cerjan has completed or supported well over 250 projects. He has also supported clients at governmental hearings, conducted audio demonstrations, and has provided expert witness testimony in lawsuits.

Experience

Renewable and Fossil Fuel Power Facilities

Conducted noise analyses in support of permitting for utility scale wind and solar facilities as well as for battery energy storage systems (BESS). This includes acoustical modeling for construction and operations, ambient and source measurements, mitigation design, permitting, and testimony in support of projects. This was also followed up with the development of compliance protocols and measurements.

Transportation Noise Analysis and Mitigation Design

Includes acoustical analysis using TNM noise modeling software to predict noise levels near highways or roadways, as well as the use of these models to design and predict the impact of any required noise mitigation. Technical noise reports were prepared in support of the EA or EIS as well as presentations to engineering personnel and the public. Co-authored the TNM User's Guide for the State of Colorado which included in-depth testing of the TNM model.

Shooting Ranges

Measured and/or modeled indoor and outdoor shooting ranges on behalf of proponents and occasionally opponents which at times can be controversial. Reviewed and provided formal responses to technical noise reports prepared by others. Successfully interpreted and applied numerous state and local noise ordinances to shooting range projects. These projects were both for private and public ranges including work for the United States Air Force Academy.

Industrial

Measured, modeled, and analyzed several various industrial sources and facilities including power plants (coal, oil, gas, biomass, cogen, peaking, etc.), gravel pits, and gold mines. Familiar with a variety of noise regulations both nationally and internationally including experience with World Bank Group and the associated International Finance Corporation Noise Guidelines. Experience working directly with lender representatives and the public to explain our clients position and compliance with the applicable regulations.

Land Development

Worked with developers regarding land development issues relating to local noise guidelines, re-zoning applications, etc. Very familiar with the variety of noise ordinances across the country. Have provided support for clients in front of City and County Commissioners, Planners, etc.

Expert Witness Testimony

Testimony on acoustics with regard to sound propagation, mitigation, measurements, and data interpretation has been provided for civil lawsuits. Preparation for these cases included conducting measurements and analysis for our clients. The results of these findings were used as evidence in their cases. Both depositions and in court testimony have been provided. Successfully defended the operation of an agricultural "hail cannon" in a civil lawsuit.

Software and Equipment

SoundPLAN® - Acoustical Modeling Software (v9.1)

Larson Davis - Noise Measurement Equipment

Brüel & Kjaer - Noise, Vibration, and Sound Intensity Measurement Equipment

Davis - Meteorological Measurement Equipment

Vaisala - Meteorological Measurement Equipment

Attachment B – General Noise Information

Common Noise Levels

Environmental noise is most commonly measured and reported as A-weighted (dBA), which is considered to best represent what humans hear. This is different from flat-weighted (dB) as dBA filters the influence in the lower frequencies. The table below provides some examples of common noise levels.

Common Noise Levels

Noise Source	Noise Level (dBA)
Amplified rock band	115 – 120
Commercial jet takeoff at 200 feet	105 – 115
Community warning siren at 100 feet	95 – 105
Busy urban street	85 – 95
Construction equipment at 50 feet	75 – 85
Freeway traffic at 50 feet	65 – 75
Normal conversation at 6 feet	55 – 65
Typical office interior	45 – 55
Soft radio music	35 – 45
Typical residential interior	25 – 35
Typical whisper at 6 feet	15 – 25
Human breathing	5 – 15
Threshold of hearing	0 – 5

Ref: Cerjan Acoustics

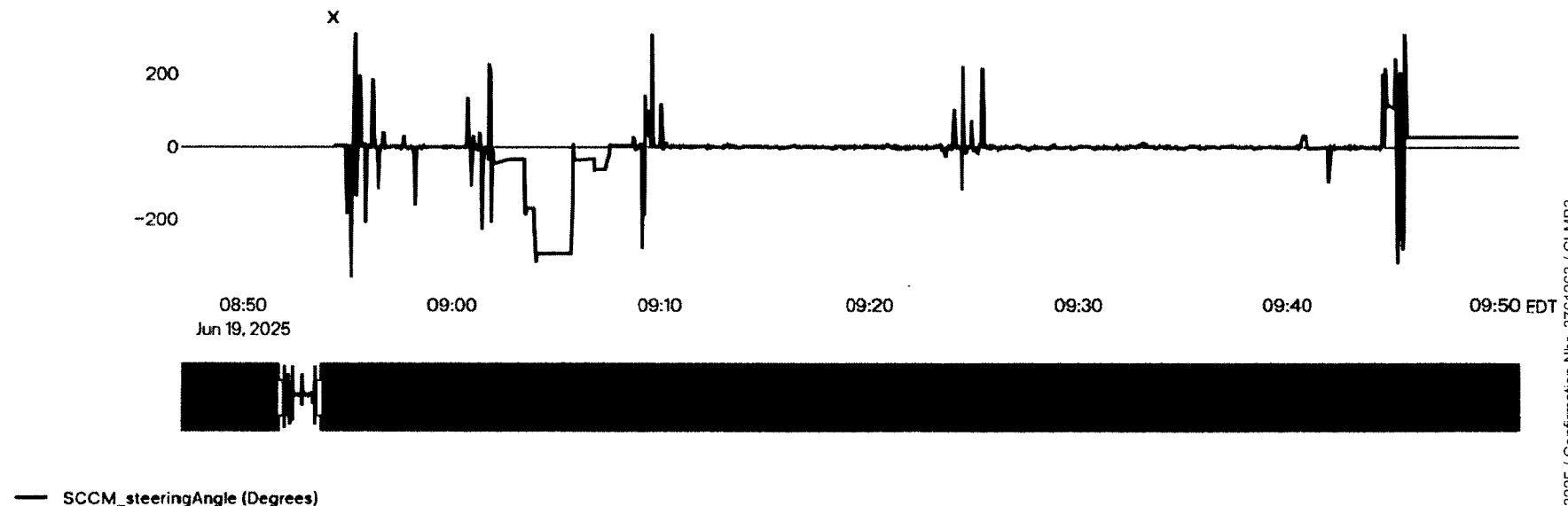
Noise Level Sensitivity

Human sensitivity to noise varies, but there are some common guidelines for how humans perceive noise. The following provides how a change in the noise or sound level is perceived by humans.

- 3 dB = just perceptible
- 5 dB = noticeable by all
- 10 dB = twice as loud

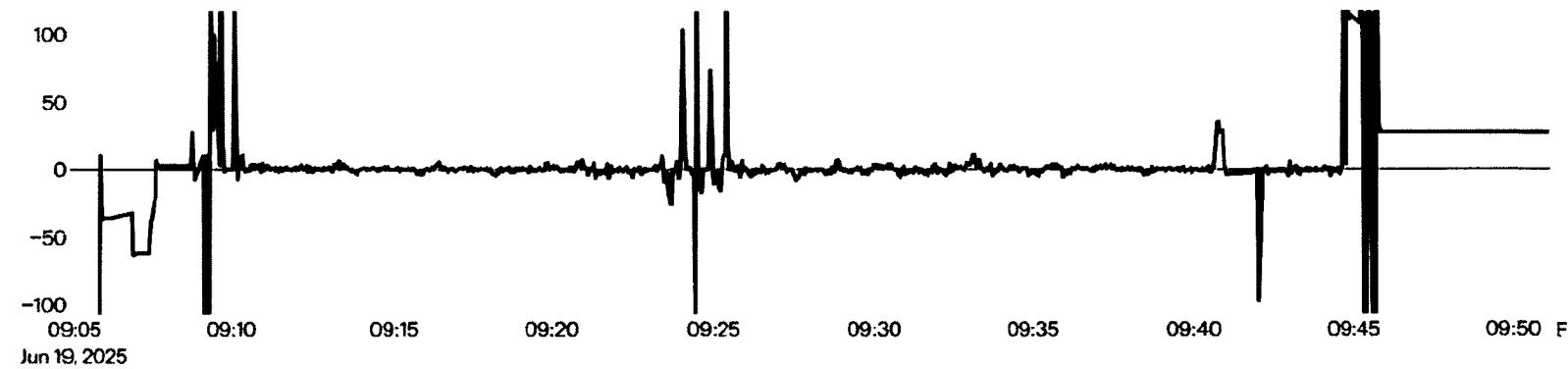
EXHIBIT 3

VIN: 7SAYGDEE7PF607442
Data Obtained at 10-06-2025 18-15 EDT



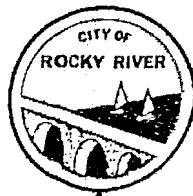
VIN: 7SAYGDEE7PF607442

Data Obtained at 10-06-2025 18-21 EDT



— SCCM_steeringAngle (Degrees)

EXHIBIT 4



ROCKY RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATEMENT FORM

Date: _____ Time: _____ Report Number: VL 202500922

Time:

Report Number:

1/2 202500922

I, <u>MAX LEONAKO MILLER</u> of			<u>BAY VILLAGE</u>		
NAME		STREET ADDRESS			
Off	44140	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 988		
STATE	ZIP CODE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	HOME PHONE NUMBER	BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	5041	
[REDACTED]		EMAIL ADDRESS			

Voluntarily make the following statement about a(n) _____ that occurred _____

I LEFT MY HOME IN BAY VILLAGE AT 9:05AM TO ATTEND MY FIRST MEETING OF THE DAY. I TURNED ON TO 90 EAST FROM COLUMBIA ROAD AND WAS APPROACHED BY A BLACK TESLA AS I ENTERED THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER. THE GENTLEMAN PROCEEDED TO LAY ON HIS HORN RELENTLESSLY, PULLING SIDE TO SIDE BY MY VEHICLE. WHEN HE COULD NOT GET MY ATTENTION, THE MAN SHOUTED AT ME CAUSING ME TO LOSE CONTROL OF MY VEHICLE FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. AS I WAS LOOKING OVER HE WAS SCREAMING AT ME RUMMAGING THROUGH HIS CAR. HE THEN SHOWED ME HIS PHONE WHICH HAD THE PALESTINIAN FLAG WITH WRITING UNDERNEATH IT. AT THIS POINT HE CONTINUED TO FOLLOW AND HARASS ME AT A VERY LOW SPEED (USTING OTHER DRIVERS TO GET OUT OF THE WAY. I ROLLED MY WINDOW DOWN TO SEE WHAT HE WAS SCREAMING AT ME. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME, MY FAMILY, FREE PALESTINE, + DEATH TO ISRAEL. HE SCREAMED MUCH MORE TO ME THAN THAT, BUT THAT IS WHAT I CAN RECALL. AS WE WERE GOING LOW SPEEDS I TRIED TO GET BEHIND THE DRIVER TO GET HIS LICENSE PLATE. HE BEGAN TO OBSTRUCT ME BY GOING THE SAME SPEED. I ENDED UP GETTING BEHIND THE DRIVER, BUT AT THE SPEED OF 40-50MPH HE HAD ME OBSTRUCT TRAFFIC PUTTING OTHERS IN DANGER. I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH A COUNCILWOMAN AND TOLD HER I NEEDED TO CALL 911. —

I have read this statement. I understand it and I believe it is true.

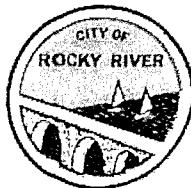
Maya Miller
SIGNATURE

~~Signature~~ SIGNATURE

Approved OIC

Officers

SIGNATURE



ROCKY RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATEMENT FORM

Date: _____ Time: _____ Report Number: 2/2 202500922

I, _____ of _____

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP CODE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DATE OF BIRTH HOME PHONE NUMBER BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER

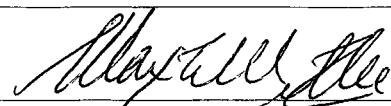
CELL/PAGER NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

Voluntarily make the following statement about a(n) _____ that occurred

PLACE ON DATE AT TIME

I CALLED 911 THAT CONNECTED ME WITH ROCKY RIVER DISPATCH. AS I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH DISPATCH THE OPERATOR NAMED THE GENTLEMAN YELL AT ME AS HE PULLED BESIDE ME ON A HIGHWAY EXIT LEADING TO SOUTH MARSHAL ROAD. AS HE PULLED A LONG SIDE ME WE BOTH STOPPED AND HE BEGAN TO YELL MORE Nonsense AT ME LACED WITH VILE RHETORIC. HE THEN SPED OFF AND I WENT TO MY NEXT MEETING.

I have read this statement, I understand it and I believe it is true


SIGNATURE

Approved OIC _____

Officer

