STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PROVIDENCE, SC.

SUPERIOR COURT

MELISSA MURRAY,
Plaintiff,

v. C.A. No.PC-2026- 06407

GREGORY JOHN RICE,
Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA MURRAY IN SUPPORT OF

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

I, Melissa Murray, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and presently serve as a member of the Rhode Island State Senate.
2. I make this affidavit based upon my personal knowledge in support of my request for injunctive relief against Gregory John Rice.
3. I am familiar with Gregory John Rice because he has previously published videos concerning me and my political activities.
4. During the spring of 2026, Mr. Rice published an approximately hour-long video concerning me and my political positions.

Events of November 20, 2026

5. On the evening of November 20, 2026, I met Senator Brian Thompson at Ciro's Tavern in Woonsocket.
6. We went there to deliver condolence citations to the family of Jill Savini Moylan, who had recently passed away.
7. We stayed for a drink and spoke with members of the family, offering our condolences.
8. Senator Thompson and I have been friends for more than ten years, long before he entered politics.
9. After leaving Ciro's Tavern, I invited Senator Thompson to my residence at 68 South Main Street in Woonsocket.
10. We spent time talking about my recent vacation and catching up on political matters.
11. At approximately 12:30 a.m. on November 21, 2026, I left my residence to travel to my partner's home in North Providence, where I intended to spend the night.

Following by an SUV

12. While driving southbound on Route 146, I noticed an SUV traveling extremely close behind my Mini Cooper with its high-beam headlights illuminated.

13. I initially believed the SUV operator might wish to pass, so I moved into the right travel lane.

14. The SUV moved into the right lane behind me and continued following extremely closely.

15. The high-beam headlights remained illuminated and caused glare inside my vehicle.

16. I exited Route 146 at Branch Avenue.

17. The SUV followed me onto the exit ramp and stopped immediately behind my vehicle at the red light.

18. Because of the glare from the SUV's headlights, I adjusted my rearview and side mirrors.

19. I continued along Branch Avenue and then Douglas Avenue in North Providence.

20. The SUV continued following me closely.

21. At that point, I believed I was being deliberately followed.

22. I became alarmed and concerned for my safety because it was late at night and I was alone.

Events at the Apartment Complex

23. As I approached my partner's apartment complex on Douglas Avenue, I activated my directional signal to enter the driveway.

24. I observed the SUV pull into the parking area of a neighboring car-audio business.

25. Because I was concerned about being followed, I turned my vehicle around and briefly entered an adjacent parking area.

26. I observed that the vehicle was a white GMC bearing registration number 1MZ 775, which I recorded.

27. I returned to my partner's apartment complex and parked my vehicle.

28. As I walked toward the building entrance, Gregory John Rice emerged from a darkened area between parked vehicles near the neighboring Veterans Home at 1115 Douglas Avenue.

29. Mr. Rice was holding his cellular telephone and filming me.

30. I recognized Mr. Rice and realized that he was the person who had been following me.

31. Mr. Rice confronted me with accusations that I was engaged in an affair and that I did not actually reside in Woonsocket.

32. Those accusations are false.

33. Mr. Rice questioned me about why I was at my partner's residence and why I possessed a key to the building.

34. He also questioned me about where my dog and cat resided.

35. Mr. Rice referred to my partner and my pets by name, including my cat's name.

36. I was disturbed by his knowledge of these personal details.

37. Mr. Rice continued following me toward the building entrance.

38. I had not invited Mr. Rice to follow me, film me, or confront me.

39. I was alone during the incident and felt threatened by his conduct.

40. I was shaken by the incident and told my partner what had happened.

41. Since the incident, I have felt unsafe traveling alone.

42. I am also concerned about the safety of my partner and our pets.

Facebook Publications

43. I subsequently became aware of a Facebook publication by Mr. Rice entitled "RHODE ISLAND STATE SENATE SEX SCANDAL."

44. The publication alleged an extramarital affair involving two Rhode Island state senators and included accusations concerning an alleged sexual encounter, intoxicated driving, residency misrepresentations, housing voucher fraud, and voter fraud.

45. I deny the accusations concerning me.

46. The Facebook publication described Mr. Rice following the female senator to another residence and confronting her about the alleged affair.

47. I was the woman Mr. Rice followed and confronted at the North Providence apartment complex.

48. On November 22, 2026, I reported to my attorney that Mr. Rice had posted another Facebook video the preceding evening.

49. I understand that the additional video may contain material relevant to the incident. Its contents should be separately preserved and reviewed.

Prior Events and Concerns

50. During the spring of 2026, after Mr. Rice published a video concerning me, former Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt contacted me.

51. During that conversation, she told me that she was a close friend of Mr. Rice and had influence over him.

52. She offered to speak with Mr. Rice on my behalf and used the phrase "call him off."

53. She repeated that offer during the conversation and stated that Mr. Rice could "get aggressive."

54. I declined her offers.

55. I do not have personal knowledge establishing that Ms. Baldelli-Hunt directed Mr. Rice to follow or confront me during the November incident.

56. I include this prior conversation because it contributes to my concerns about Mr. Rice's behavior.

Evidence and Need for Protection

57. I have contacted Phoenix Property Management concerning possible surveillance recordings from the Veterans Home at 1115 Douglas Avenue.

58. I understand that surveillance cameras may also exist at my Woonsocket apartment complex.

59. I am concerned that Mr. Rice may again follow me or confront me unexpectedly while I am traveling alone.

60. His conduct on the night in question caused me fear and alarm.

61. I respectfully request that the Court consider an order protecting me from further unlawful following, stalking, threats, intimidation, and harassment.

62. I make this affidavit voluntarily and under oath.

I swear that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge.

MELISSA MURRAY
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn before me this 23rd day of November, 2026.

Mark L. Smith, Notary Public #15971
My Commission Expires: 9-28-2030

MARK L. SMITH
NOTARY PUBLIC
ID# 15971
COMMISSION EXPIRES 09-28-2030
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPERIOR COURT

Plaintiff Melissa Murray v. **Defendant** Gregory John Rice	**Civil Action File Number** PC-2026-06407
Licht Judicial Complex Providence/Bristol County 250 Benefit Street Providence RI 02903 (401) 222-3250	

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

In the above-entitled cause it is ordered that the same be set down for hearing on the prayer(s) for a preliminary injunction contained in the Complaint on **12/03/2026 at 9:30am**; and that, in the meantime and until further order of the court

1. **The Plaintiff's prayer for a Temporary Restraining Order is GRANTED.**

2. **The Defendant, Gregory John Rice, is hereby restrained from interfering with, molesting, harassing, threatening, annoying or contacting the Plaintiff in any manner, directly or indirectly.**

3. **This restraining order shall expire on 12/3/26.**

A COPY OF THIS ORDER AND A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT SHALL BE SERVED UPON THE DEFENDANT, GREGORY JOHN RICE, FORTHWITH.

Entered as an Order of the court on 11/23/2026.	**BY ORDER OF:** /s/ Randie Mitchell Deputy Clerk I
	ENTER: /s/ Joanna M. Achille Associate Justice

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PROVIDENCE, SC.

SUPERIOR COURT

MELISSA MURRAY,
Plaintiff,

v.

C.A. No.PC-2026- 06407

GREGORY JOHN RICE,
Defendant.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DEFAMATION, CIVIL STALKING, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiff Melissa Murray, by and through her attorney, Mark L. Smith, Esq., complains against Defendant Gregory John Rice and alleges as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff Melissa Murray is an adult resident of Woonsocket, Providence County, Rhode Island, and a duly elected member of the Rhode Island State Senate.
2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Gregory John Rice resides at 249 East Shore Drive, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816.
3. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's civil claims and requests for equitable relief pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 8-2-13 and 9-1-2.1, and other applicable law.
4. Venue is alleged to be proper in Providence County because Plaintiff resides in that county and the events giving rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in Providence County, subject to applicable venue requirements.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Background

5. Plaintiff is a Rhode Island State Senator and has maintained her residence in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.
6. Defendant has previously published commentary concerning Plaintiff and her political activities.
7. During the spring of 2026, Defendant published an approximately hour-long video concerning Plaintiff and her political positions.
8. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's conduct subsequently escalated from political commentary to unwanted physical following, surveillance, and personal confrontation.

Events of November 20–21, 2026

9. On the evening of November 20, 2026, Plaintiff met Senator Brian Thompson at Ciro's Tavern in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

10. The purpose of their meeting was to deliver condolence citations to the family of Jill Savini Moylan, who had recently passed away.

11. Plaintiff and Senator Thompson remained at the establishment for a drink and spoke with members of the deceased's family, offering condolences.

12. Plaintiff and Senator Thompson have been friends for more than ten years, predating Senator Thompson's entrance into politics.

13. Thereafter, Plaintiff invited Senator Thompson to her residence at 68 South Main Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, where they conversed about Plaintiff's recent vacation and political matters.

14. At approximately 12:30 a.m. on November 21, 2026, Plaintiff departed her residence to spend the remainder of the night at her partner's residence in North Providence, Rhode Island.

15. While traveling southbound on Route 146, Plaintiff noticed an SUV following her vehicle at an unusually close distance with its high-beam headlights illuminated.

16. Plaintiff, who was operating a Mini Cooper, moved into the right travel lane because she believed the SUV operator might wish to pass.

17. Instead, the SUV also moved into the right lane and continued following Plaintiff closely with its high-beam headlights illuminated.

18. Plaintiff exited Route 146 at Branch Avenue.

19. The SUV continued following Plaintiff and stopped immediately behind her vehicle at a red traffic signal at the end of the exit ramp.

20. The SUV's headlights caused substantial glare, requiring Plaintiff to adjust her rearview and side mirrors.

21. Plaintiff continued traveling along Branch Avenue and then Douglas Avenue in North Providence.

22. The SUV continued following her closely.

23. Plaintiff became alarmed and concerned for her safety because she was traveling alone late at night and believed the SUV was deliberately following her.

Defendant's Conduct at the North Providence Apartment Complex

24. Upon approaching her partner's apartment complex on Douglas Avenue, Plaintiff activated her directional signal to enter the driveway.

25. Plaintiff observed the SUV enter a parking area associated with a neighboring car-audio business.

26. Concerned about the SUV's conduct, Plaintiff turned her vehicle around and briefly entered an adjacent parking area.

27. Plaintiff recorded the vehicle's identifying information as a white GMC bearing Rhode Island registration 1MZ 775.

28. Plaintiff thereafter returned to her partner's apartment complex and parked her vehicle.

29. As Plaintiff walked toward the entrance of the building, Defendant Gregory John Rice emerged from a darkened area between parked vehicles near the neighboring Veterans Home at 1115 Douglas Avenue.

30. Defendant was holding a cellular telephone and filming Plaintiff.

31. Upon seeing Defendant, Plaintiff recognized him as the individual who had followed her vehicle.

32. Defendant approached Plaintiff and confronted her with accusations concerning an alleged extramarital affair and her residence in Woonsocket.

33. Defendant questioned Plaintiff concerning her presence at her partner's apartment, why she possessed a key to the premises, and where her dog and cat resided.

34. Defendant referred to Plaintiff's partner and pets by name, including the name of her cat.

35. Defendant's apparent knowledge of these personal details heightened Plaintiff's concern that Defendant had been observing or monitoring her private activities.

36. Defendant continued following Plaintiff as she approached the entrance to the apartment building.

37. Plaintiff had not invited Defendant to follow her, record her, or confront her at that location.

38. Plaintiff was alone during the incident and felt threatened by Defendant's conduct.

39. Plaintiff was shaken by the encounter and immediately reported the incident to her partner.

40. As a consequence of the incident, Plaintiff now feels unsafe traveling alone and is concerned about the safety of her partner and their pets.

Defendant's Facebook Publications

41. Following the incident, Defendant published a Facebook statement entitled "RHODE ISLAND STATE SENATE SEX SCANDAL."

42. Defendant claimed to have witnessed two sitting Rhode Island state senators engaged in an extramarital affair.

43. Defendant alleged that the senators traveled to a woman's apartment for a sexual encounter and subsequently operated motor vehicles while apparently intoxicated.

44. Defendant further alleged that the female senator maintained a purported residence in her Senate district but actually resided elsewhere with her fiancé.

45. Defendant asserted that the female senator should be investigated for housing choice voucher fraud and voter fraud.

46. Defendant expressly acknowledged in his publication that he followed the female senator to another residence and approached her to question her concerning the alleged affair.

47. Defendant further represented that he possessed video recordings and intended to release them.

48. Plaintiff alleges that the statements concerning her were false.

49. Plaintiff denies engaging in the alleged affair, participating in the alleged sexual encounter, driving while intoxicated in connection with the described events, or engaging in residency, voter, or housing voucher fraud.

50. Defendant's allegations were directed at Plaintiff, as demonstrated by Defendant's personal confrontation of Plaintiff and his subsequent description of that confrontation in the Facebook publication.

51. Plaintiff alleges that third parties are able to understand the publication to concern her specifically.

52. On or about November 21, 2026, Defendant published an additional Facebook video concerning the incident.

53. The content of that additional video shall be identified and supplemented after preservation and review of the recording.

Additional Conduct and Resulting Harm

54. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's conduct involved more than the publication of political commentary.

55. Defendant allegedly followed Plaintiff over multiple roadways at night, maintained close proximity to her vehicle, illuminated her vehicle with high-beam headlights, positioned himself near the apartment complex, recorded Plaintiff, and confronted her with accusations.

56. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's conduct was intentional and caused her to fear for her personal safety.

57. Plaintiff is concerned that Defendant will continue to monitor her movements or approach her unexpectedly at private locations.

58. Plaintiff has attempted to obtain surveillance footage from the property management company responsible for the neighboring Veterans Home.

59. Plaintiff believes surveillance footage may exist at her Woonsocket apartment complex and at locations near the North Providence incident.

60. Plaintiff seeks protection from further unlawful following, stalking, threats, intimidation, or harassment.

COUNT I — DEFAMATION

61. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 60.

62. Defendant published statements of purported fact concerning Plaintiff to third persons through Facebook.

63. Those statements included allegations of sexual misconduct, intoxicated driving, misrepresentation of residence, and suspected voter or public-benefits fraud.

64. Plaintiff alleges that the statements concerning her were materially false.

65. Defendant's conduct during the personal confrontation provides evidence that he intended the allegations to concern Plaintiff.

66. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant published the statements with actual malice, meaning knowledge of falsity or reckless disregard for truth, based upon Defendant's actions.

67. The publications have caused Plaintiff reputational injury and other compensable damage.

68. Plaintiff seeks damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

COUNT II — CIVIL STALKING

R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-2.1

69. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 68.

70. Defendant intentionally followed Plaintiff by automobile from Woonsocket to North Providence.

71. Defendant maintained close proximity to Plaintiff's vehicle and continued following her despite her changing lanes and exiting the highway.

72. Defendant thereafter positioned himself near the North Providence apartment complex, emerged from a darkened area, recorded Plaintiff, and confronted her.

73. Defendant demonstrated knowledge of personal details concerning Plaintiff's partner and pets.

74. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant engaged in a series of acts directed at her that caused her substantial fear and alarm.

75. Plaintiff alleges that the conduct, considered together with any additional surveillance or repeated conduct established through discovery, satisfies the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-2.1.

76. Defendant's conduct caused Plaintiff to fear for her safety and to experience substantial emotional distress.

77. Plaintiff seeks the remedies available under the statute to the extent its elements are established.

COUNT III — REQUEST FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

78. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 77.

79. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's unwanted nighttime following, apparent concealment, filming, and confrontation present a risk of continued unlawful conduct.

80. Plaintiff has experienced fear and apprehension concerning her safety while traveling alone and the safety of her partner and pets.

81. Plaintiff requests temporary and preliminary injunctive relief pursuant to Rule 65 of the Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure, upon the findings required by that rule.

82. Plaintiff requests that Defendant be restrained from intentionally following, threatening, intimidating, stalking, or unlawfully harassing her, and from engaging in unwanted personal confrontations under circumstances the Court determines justify such relief.

83. Plaintiff does not seek an injunction prohibiting constitutionally protected speech, lawful political criticism, lawful reporting, or petitioning governmental authorities.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

A. Judgment against Defendant on Count I, together with compensatory damages;

B. Such relief as is authorized by R.I. Gen. Laws § 9-1-2.1 upon proof of its statutory requirements;

C. Punitive damages to the extent legally available and supported by the evidence;

D. A temporary restraining order and, following hearing, a preliminary injunction restraining independently unlawful stalking, threatening, or harassing conduct;

E. Upon appropriate findings, an order restricting Defendant's intentional following of Plaintiff and unwanted approaches to her private residence or other protected locations;

F. Costs, attorney's fees and such additional relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

PLAINTIFF, MELISSA MURRAY,
By her Attorney,

Mark L. Smith, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF MARK L. SMITH
191 Social Street, Suite 470
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895
Telephone: (401) 769-4120
Email: lawmls@aol.com

Date: November 23, 2026

VERIFICATION

I, Melissa Murray, being duly sworn, state that I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint; that the allegations concerning matters within my personal knowledge are true; and that allegations expressly based upon information and belief are believed by me to be true.

Melissa Murray

Subscribed and sworn before me this 23rd day of November, 2026.

Mark L. Smith, Notary Public #15971
My Commission Expires: 9-28-2030

MARK L. SMITH
COMMISSION EXPIRES
09-28-2030
NOTARY
PUBLIC
ID# 15971
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND