



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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EIGHTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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August 7, 2026

Anthony Pollicito
Election Information Security Analyst
Office of the Secretary of the State
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Anthony Pollicito,

I would like to bring your attention to public statements made by Connecticut Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas that are directly contradicted by a New Britain Police Department report, and which remain posted on her official social media accounts without correction.

Following the deaths of Officer Cooper Whiteside and Brittany Islami, a Danbury Police Department arrest warrant application misidentified the suspect's address as belonging to a Melissa Esperanza Ramirez of New Britain — a different woman than the actual suspect, who resides in Stamford. In response, Secretary Thomas issued a public statement and social media posts asserting that the New Britain woman had been receiving death threats as a result of this misidentification.

A New Britain Police Department supplementary report (Case #2600050684, dated August 4, 2026) documents officers making direct contact with the New Britain Melissa Ramirez, who told them in person that she "has not been receiving any death threats nor is being harassed." She further stated that her only contact with the situation had been unwanted calls from journalists.

This report squarely contradicts the central factual claim in Secretary Thomas's public statements. Despite this, her original posts remain live on her social media accounts as of this writing, uncorrected. A constitutional officer's public statements carry significant weight, and leaving a demonstrably inaccurate claim in circulation — after a sworn police report contradicting it has become available — raises serious concerns about the accuracy of information being disseminated from her office. I request that your office look into this matter, including whether a correction or retraction is warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent J. Candelora". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "V" at the beginning.

Vincent J. Candelora
House Republican Leader