

# Made for News Media Hate Crime

*Progressive leader claims hate crime victimhood, police report shows otherwise*

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## Executive Summary

Julie Ohashi of Highland Township alleged that a large swastika painted on a tree near her home on April 1, 2023, was meant to stop her school-related political activism by intimidating her into silence. She also asserted the swastika is a hate crime because her husband is a minority.<sup>1</sup>

She lodged her complaint with law enforcement. In short order local law enforcement concluded that no hate crime had been committed against her. Ohashi made a federal case out of this by also filing a complaint with the FBI. Within days the FBI also concluded that there was no evidence of a hate crime.

**Over a month after both law enforcement agencies drew their conclusions Ohashi publicly asserted she was a victim of a hate crime.** She spoke at a public meeting, and she mounted a media campaign. Ohashi asserted that the FBI is investigating her complaint as a hate crime. While the FBI would not confirm or deny that it was conducting an ongoing investigation, the local police report states that both local and federal authorities had concluded Ohashi is not the victim of a hate crime.

**Questions regarding Ohashi's veracity were revealed in the police report authored by local authorities.** This police report was obtained by Livingston County Commissioner Wes Nakagiri through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. As chronicled in the police report, Ohashi made significant misrepresentations to local and federal law enforcement agencies.

On May 9, 2023, MLive published a story about Ohashi's swastika complaint. **Using misleading reporting MLive wrongly implicated Livingston County.** Specifically, MLive published this story using a date line of LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MI when the alleged victim and the alleged crime scene were in OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. MLive wanted readers to believe this alleged hate crime occurred in Livingston County.

## Background Information

Julie Ohashi is the President of Livingston Integrity.<sup>2</sup> Under her leadership this organization operates a Ballot Question Committee and a Political Action Committee. Livingston Integrity's home page states, "We are a non-partisan political action committee (PAC) dedicated to democracy through honesty and transparency in Livingston County, Michigan."<sup>3</sup> **A local left-wing podcast describes Livingston Integrity PAC as a "local progressive political organization."**<sup>4, 5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Fox 2 Detroit*, Incidents of anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ hate on rise in Hartland, 5/25/23. Her video interview shows Ohashi appears to be Caucasian.

<sup>2</sup> *Livingston Daily*, Ottawa Integrity joins forces with Livingston Integrity to combat 'extremism', 4/6/23. Ohashi previously founded Hartland Truth. Hartland Truth is now Livingston Integrity. Hartland Truth opposed four conservative candidates in the 2022 Hartland School Board election. These same four candidates were opposed by the Livingston County Democratic Party. Citizens ended up electing three of the four conservative candidates.

<sup>3</sup> <https://livingstonintegrity.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Mike and Jon Podcast*, Local progressive PAC allies itself with West Michigan group, 4/6/23.

<sup>5</sup> According to [campaign finance records](#) the Chairwoman of the Livingston County Democrat Party contributed to Livingston Integrity. Other known Democrat contributors include two former County Commissioner candidates, and a township trustee. These same campaign finance records show that Livingston Integrity has been fined for violating campaign finance laws.

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Though its leader does not reside in Livingston County or the Hartland Consolidated School District, Ohashi's Livingston Integrity PAC has taken a strong interest in influencing Livingston County school policy. Her PAC is especially focused on the Hartland Consolidated School Board.

On April 2, 2023, Ohashi, an Oakland County resident, contacted the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) to report that a large swastika had been spray painted on a tree and burn marks.<sup>6</sup> She conveyed to the OCSO that the swastika must have been applied to the tree on 4/1/23.<sup>7</sup> Referring to her leadership of Livingston Integrity PAC, Ohashi stated, "Our family sees that swastika and attempted tree burning as a pathetic and cowardly attempt to intimidate us into silence."<sup>8</sup>

Ohashi conveyed to the OCSO that she was doxed on March 31, 2023, by her political opponents.<sup>9</sup> She claimed that publishing her address online enabled her political opponents to threaten her the next day, April 1st, by applying a swastika on the tree in question.

As stated in OCSO case reports, the tree in question was not located at her residence. Rather, the tree was in a subdivision park and located about 50 yards from her property line.<sup>10</sup>

On April 5, 2023, FBI Special Agent (SA) Krupa contacted the OCSO about a report taken in Highland Township (Oakland County) on 4/2/23. SA Krupa stated that Ohashi had contacted the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) in West Virginia and reported a hate crime in Highland Township.<sup>11</sup>

**OCSO quickly concluded there was no hate crime directed at Ohashi as the case was closed after their initial investigation.**<sup>12</sup> However, OCSO stated if new information becomes available further investigation would be performed. While the police report does not state their reasons for their conclusion, it is reasonable to believe the following may have influenced the OCSO conclusion.

- The tree with the swastika was not located on Ohashi's property, but in a private park 50 yards from her property.<sup>13</sup>
- The swastika was not visible from Ohashi's home.<sup>14</sup>
- The alleged crime was committed against park owners, not Ohashi.

Being informed by the OCSO that there was no proof of a crime being committed against her she opted to make a federal case out of it. She focused attention on her federal complaint with the FBI's National Threat Operations Center. On May 8, 2023, publicly spoke about the swastika incident at a meeting of the Hartland

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<sup>6</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> *MLive*, Michigan woman discovered swastika near home after founding group against extremism, 5/9/23.

<sup>9</sup> *Mike and Jon Podcast*, Livingston Integrity leader alleges doxing, vandalism, and FBI investigation in the wake of Hartland millage vote, 5/9/23.

<sup>10</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 4.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, page 4.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, page 3.

<sup>13</sup> Highland Township property records show Ohashi is not the owner of the property at which she resides.

<https://bsaonline.com/?uid=1632>

<sup>14</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 4.

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Board of Education. She stated, “My husband is one of the few racial minorities in our neighborhood, so we reported the incident to the FBI and it’s being investigated as a federal hate crime.”<sup>15</sup>

It is noteworthy that on 5/8/23, Ohashi claimed at a public meeting that her complaint was being investigated as a federal hate crime. This same claim was echoed in media reports published on 5/9/23. To the contrary, an OCSO case report entry stated that on 4/5/23, SA Krupa (FBI) informed the OCSO that there was no proof of a crime in Oakland County.<sup>16 17</sup> In other words, **Ohashi was misleading the public into believing that her swastika incident was being investigated as a hate crime when in fact, a month earlier, the FBI informed OCSO personnel there was no proof of a hate crime.**

## Playing the Race Card

Asserting that your political opponents used intimidation tactics because of your policy views on school issues is one thing. It is different than asserting your political opponents used intimidation tactics because of racial bias against your spouse.

**Hate crime allegations deserve a full and comprehensive investigation, but trumped-up charges of hate crime immeasurably harm race relations and contribute to the societal strife we see today.** Our society has seen many instances where reported hate crimes are not what they seem. Readers may recall the Jussie Smollett hate crime hoax<sup>18</sup> or the hate crime allegations of NASCAR driver Bubba Wallace<sup>19</sup> that the FBI concluded were not true.

Had Ohashi painted the swastika herself then her situation would be on par with the Jussie Smollett hate crime hoax. As it stands the OCSO report indicates her situation is similar to that of Bubba Wallace. In both the Wallace case and the Ohashi case complaints were filed with federal authorities about a hate symbol directed toward each of them. In the Wallace case the hate symbol was a noose, while in the Ohashi case the hate symbol was a swastika. In both cases the FBI found no evidence of a hate crime. It is at this point when these two cases diverge. In the former case Wallace ceased claiming to be a hate crime victim, in the latter case Ohashi continued to publicly claim victimhood status.

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<sup>15</sup> Hartland School Board Meeting, May 8, 2023, YouTube video recording of meeting, timestamped to begin at 1:39:13, <https://youtu.be/dch5DfzqV2o?t=5953>.

<sup>16</sup> Oakland County Sheriff’s Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 4.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, page 4. This OCSO report shows SA Krupa stated there was no proof of a crime against Ohashi in Oakland County. In other words, the swastika incident was not a hate crime. SA Krupa also indicated that an additional Ohashi complaint of social media harassment had been transferred to the FBI Field Office in Ann Arbor.

<sup>18</sup> *Fox 5 Washington DC*, Brothers in Jussie Smollett hoax break silence, say actor wanted to be 'poster child for activism', 5/1/23.

<sup>19</sup> *ESPN*, FBI says rope had been in Talladega garage since October; Bubba Wallace not victim of hate crime, 6/23/20.

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## Witness Credibility

Ohashi has made numerous statements to law enforcement and the media that undermine her credibility.

**My review of the police report showed many significant misrepresentations made by Ohashi to law enforcement.** If her case had gone to trial, the magnitude of her misrepresentations could call into question the reliability of her testimony.

- Ohashi repeatedly stated to the OCSO that she was a teacher in the Hartland Consolidated School District. When OCSO investigated her claim, the Hartland Consolidated School District stated that she is NOT a teacher in their district.<sup>20</sup>
- During the initial investigation, Ohashi claimed that her husband is the only Black man in the neighborhood. Her statement was captured on Deputy Thieme's body camera footage.<sup>21, 22</sup> Eight days later Ohashi stated she told Deputies her husband was dark skinned, but not black.<sup>23</sup> Review of her husband's Linked-In page showed the photo of a man who appears to be Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Ohashi reported the incident to OCSO on 4/2/23. On or before 4/5/23 Ohashi also reported the incident to the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC). She stated in her complaint to the NTOC that the tree was on her property and that the tree was burned.<sup>24</sup> Both statements were incorrect. The tree is 50 yards from her property and the symbol was painted.<sup>25</sup>

In a statement to the media **Ohashi expressed frustration that the OCSO did not agree with her assertion that the swastika was burned into the tree, not spray painted on the tree.** The media reported:

"She [Ohashi] says the police dismissed the incident as a simple act of hooliganism, attributing the vandalism to local children or teens. While Ohashi explained the doxing incident, she says these circumstances were not taken into account by the responding officers and that the attempted arson was also left out of the police report."<sup>26</sup>

**On the contrary, the OCSO went to great lengths to confirm whether the tree was burned or not.** The OCSO even had the Highland Township Fire Marshall inspect the tree. The police report says, "The Fire Marshal stated the tree did not look to be burned, just spray painted."<sup>27</sup> It is not known why Ohashi was doggedly insistent that the tree was burned and not spray painted. However, it is notable that the only complaining witness seemed so extremely interested in promulgating her burnt tree narrative. My

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<sup>20</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, pages 6 and 7.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, page 6.

<sup>22</sup> A review of body camera footage from OCSO's initial investigation showed Ohashi claiming her husband is Black. Ohashi said, "My husband is the only Black person in this whole area." Here is a link to an excerpt from this body camera video <https://youtu.be/2Q-z4hqJf4A>.

<sup>23</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 6.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, page 4.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, page 4.

<sup>26</sup> *Mike and Jon Podcast*, Livingston Integrity leader alleges doxing, vandalism, and FBI investigation in the wake of Hartland millage vote, 5/9/23.

<sup>27</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 4.

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conclusion is that Ohashi was attempting to manipulate public opinion and increase public outrage by claiming that the swastika was burned rather than just painted.

**Prosecuting a hate crime is a serious business requiring solid evidence and unembellished truthful testimony.** In a court of law, a lawyer could attack Ohashi's testimony by pointing out she has provided verifiably incorrect information to law enforcement and the media.

## MLive Misleads Their Readers

An article published by MLive<sup>28</sup> regarding Ohashi's allegations provides an example of the need for citizens to do their own due diligence. MLive published their May 9th article using a dateline of LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MI. **The MLive dateline is disingenuous in that it leads readers to incorrectly conclude the Ohashi incident occurred in Livingston County, Michigan, when the incident actually occurred in Oakland County, Michigan.**

MLive attempted to justify its bogus dateline stating Ohashi's home is "on the Oakland/Livingston County line."<sup>29</sup> This statement is inaccurate as seven homes on Ohashi's street are located closer to the county border than hers. According to Google Maps, Ohashi lives 0.2 miles into Oakland County.

In sum, Ohashi lives in Oakland County, the tree with the swastika is in a private park in Oakland County, Ohashi reported her allegations to the Sheriff's Office in Oakland County, Ohashi contacted the FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) and reported a hate crime in Highland Township which is in Oakland County. Public records show Ohashi is registered to vote in Oakland County, and Ohashi resides in the Huron Valley School district which is in Oakland County.

While it is disappointing that MLive chose to mislead its readers, there is a silver lining in its attempt to frame Livingston County as the scene of the crime. MLive's blatant geographic distortion caught my attention and piqued my curiosity. I wondered what other misinformation MLive might have published. MLive's "fake news" motivated me to do my own independent investigation, enabling me to reveal the truth about Ohashi's alleged hate crime.

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Ohashi did an excellent job of generating media interest in her alleged hate crime. In the world of political activism, her story garnered significant "earned media." Earned media refers to publicity or exposure gained from methods other than paid advertising.

The release of her story appeared to be well coordinated. On May 8, 2023, Ohashi publicly shared her hate crime allegations at a public meeting of the Hartland School Board. The following day local, state, and national news organizations simultaneously published stories about her allegations.<sup>30</sup> It is quite regrettable

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.MLive.com/news/2023/05/michigan-woman-discovered-swastika-near-home-after-founding-group-against-extremism.html>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> On May 9, 2023 stories were published by *Yahoo News*, <https://news.yahoo.com/livingston-integrity-organizer-alleges-harassment-125200813.html>, *MLive*, <https://www.mlive.com/news/2023/05/michigan-woman-discovered->

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that, none of these news organizations, nor Ohashi, demonstrated integrity as they failed to inform citizens that over one month earlier, local and federal authorities concluded there was no evidence of a crime.<sup>31</sup>

It is ironic that the leader of Livingston Integrity neither lives in Livingston County nor has acted with integrity. The fact that she has misrepresented her husband's race, fibbed about being a Hartland schoolteacher, and lied to the FBI about the location of the alleged hate crime shows she lacks integrity. Topping it off, she publicly claimed to be a hate crime victim long after law enforcement had concluded otherwise. Ohashi achieved the publicity and attention she craved at the expense of further dividing society along racial lines.

Ohashi's well-orchestrated public relations campaign to smear her opponents suggests she is more than just a concerned citizen from a neighboring county. She appears to be a well-coached, no-holds-barred progressive operative. Her numerous fabrications to law enforcement combined with "playing the race card" illustrates the extent to which she will vigorously pursue her agenda of electing progressive left school board candidates.

Unfortunately for Ohashi, there is objectively verifiable evidence of her misdeeds. When Ohashi played the race card together with the deception card she thought she had a winning hand. What she did not anticipate was her combination would be trumped by a single truth card. As citizens become aware of her sleight of hand, they will reject her dirty dealing as well as her progressive left agenda.

*About the Author: Wes Nakagiri (R) was first elected to the Livingston County Board of Commissioners in 2018 and is now serving his third term. He currently represents citizens of the 4th District (all of Hartland Township and the portion of Oceola Township east of Latson Road). Commissioner Nakagiri, an American of Japanese descent, has been recognized for his public service achievements by the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. His past investigations have uncovered significant Whitmer Administration corruption.<sup>32</sup> He holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) in Flint, Michigan, and a Master of Applied Statistics from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.*

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[swastika-near-home-after-founding-group-against-extremism.html](https://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/politics/elections/livingston-county/2023/05/09/livingston-integrity-organizer-alleges-harassment-vandalism-in-wake-of-millage-vote/70198488007/), *Livingston Daily*, <https://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/politics/elections/livingston-county/2023/05/09/livingston-integrity-organizer-alleges-harassment-vandalism-in-wake-of-millage-vote/70198488007/>, and *Mike and Jon Podcast*, <https://mikeandjonpodcast.com/livingston-integrity-leader-alleges-doxing-vandalism-and-fbi-investigation-in-the-wake-of-hartland-millage-vote/>.

<sup>31</sup> Oakland County Sheriff's Office Case Report: CR No: 230078678, page 4.

<sup>32</sup> Nakagiri exposed Governor Whitmer's vaccine allocation plan that shortchanged Seniors:

<https://100percentfedup.com/breaking-exclusive-mi-county-commissioner-reveals-dem-gov-whitmers-shocking-communist-style-social-score-used-to-prioritize-recipients-of-covid-vaccination-places-seniors-behind-prisoners-il/>  
He also exposed Whitmer's Covid contact tracing plan to funnel confidential medical records to Democrat operatives: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/gov-whitmer-awards-contact-tracing-contract-to-dem-consultant-who-said-trump-should-get-coronavirus-asap>