

National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force

Operation Clean Slate



Officer Brett Leatherman
Cyber Deputy Assistant Director – FBI
Joint Operation- NCIJTF
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Official letter
August 21, 2025

xxx

Westlake, OH 44145

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We are formally requesting the necessary information to enforce the Federal laws of the United States. Compliance with these laws is compulsory, and as such, you are legally obligated to furnish us with the requisite details. This is crucial to ensure the accuracy of your records and to identify and rectify any instances of fraud or misinformation associated with your identity. It is imperative that all information provided is truthful to the best of your knowledge and belief. Please be advised that furnishing false or misleading information constitutes a serious offense and may result in legal repercussions. Your full cooperation in this matter is essential to uphold the integrity of the Federal Laws and to safeguard the rights and entitlements of all individuals involved.

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1. Case Information:

The information provided below is a detailed account of the events that unfolded at our FBI Sacramento office on February 21, 2025, following the cyber-attack orchestrated by the Lock-bit cyber-criminal organization. On the aforementioned date, our office fell victim to a sophisticated ransomware attack carried out by Lock-bit. The attack commenced suddenly, with all computer screens within our premises turning black simultaneously. It became evident that our systems had been compromised, and a ransom demand message from the Lock-bit syndicate appeared on each desktop, demanding an extortionate sum of \$750 million in Bitcoin (crypto currency) for the decryption keys required to unlock our files. In response to the crisis, immediate action was taken to contain the situation and mitigate potential risks. Recognizing the gravity of the incident, the current special agent in charge (SAC) of the FBI office at Sacramento California convened an emergency meeting with the director of the FBI, Kash Patel, to formulate a strategic response. It was unanimously agreed upon that the matter should be handled discreetly to prevent unnecessary panic and ensure the preservation of sensitive information.

Subsequently, Kash Patel (Director-FBI) authorized the establishment of a specialized task force within the NCIJTF-National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force dedicated to negotiating with the cyber-criminal organization responsible for the attack. This task force was spearheaded by Deputy Assistant Director Brett Leatherman, whose expertise in cyber warfare proved invaluable in navigating the complexities of the negotiation process. After several rounds of intense negotiations, a deal was brokered with Lock-bit, resulting in the payment of \$630 million in Bitcoin (crypto currency) to secure the release of the decryption keys and regain access to our compromised systems.

With our systems restored, Deputy Assistant Director Leatherman immediately initiated a comprehensive forensic examination of our digital infrastructure to assess the extent of the damage and gather intelligence on the perpetrators. During this process, a folder labeled "X" was discovered, containing crucial evidence implicating Lock-bit in the attack. This evidence included encrypted files detailing the servers utilized in the assault, as well as a distressing image depicting one of our undercover agents, who had tragically lost his life during the operation.

Furthermore, the examination of the evidence led to the identification of a residential address rented under your name, linked to the cyber-criminal operation. Acting swiftly, a team of agents was dispatched to conduct a raid at the specified location. The raid yielded significant findings, including the confiscation of illicit narcotics weighing approximately 25 pounds, an assortment of firearms, and incriminating financial documentation implicating the operation in illegal wire transfers to terrorist organizations operating in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Regrettably, amidst the seizure of contraband, the lifeless body of our fallen agent was discovered within the premises.

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Additionally, a master plan outlining the destruction of the entire state of California was uncovered during the raid. This alarming revelation elevates the severity of the situation to one of national security and terrorism.

It has come to our attention that your identity has been exploited by the malicious Lock-bit cyber-criminal organization to orchestrate a devastating attack on the FBI Sacramento office. This act of cyber terrorism has placed both our agency and countless individuals at grave risk, and as such, demands swift and unwavering cooperation. we must be unequivocal in our directive: you are to cooperate fully with our ongoing investigation into this matter, or face severe consequences for your complicity in this criminal endeavor. Failure to comply will result in the full force of the law being brought to bear upon you, including but not limited to legal proceedings and potential criminal charges.

Furthermore, should you choose to resist or obstruct our investigation in any manner, the FBI will not hesitate to take punitive action. This includes the freezing of all assets, the seizure of all properties under your name, and the initiation of legal proceedings that will see you fighting against the entire FBI in the court of law.

we understand the weight of this directive and the implications it carries. However, the seriousness of the situation necessitates decisive action. Your cooperation is not only imperative to our efforts to mitigate the damage wrought by this attack but is also crucial in ensuring that justice is served.

Rest assured, your confidentiality and privacy will be upheld to the fullest extent possible within the confines of our investigation. Nevertheless, we must impress upon you the urgency and importance of your compliance with this directive. we expect your immediate cooperation in this matter. Failure to do so will result in consequences that I trust you would prefer to avoid.

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2. Protocol & Instructions:

This communication serves as a directive from the FBI, emphasizing the critical importance of your strict cooperation with our ongoing investigation. Failure to comply with the following protocol and instructions will have serious consequences.

Protocol:

Under no circumstances are you to refuse our instructions, fail to cooperate, or disclose this information to any individual. Such actions will result in the immediate freezing of all your financial accounts, potential custody of you and your family, and legal proceedings brought before the court of law.

Instructions:

- 1) Every morning upon waking up, you are required to check all your accounts and promptly contact us on the secure line.
- 2) Without delay, provide any requested documents or information.
- 3) Before meeting with anyone or leaving your residence, notify us and provide comprehensive details.
- 4) Upon returning home, immediately inform us.

Furthermore, you are obligated to complete an asset verification form, which will be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service. This form will verify your legitimate assets and possessions, ensuring protection against fraudulent activities under your name. Additionally, an online secure Vault will be established for emergency purposes. All expenses incurred during this covert operation will be reimbursed upon its successful conclusion. However, failure to comply with our directives or divulging this information to unauthorized individuals will result in your arrest and federal interrogation, with custody maintained until the case reaches the Supreme Court. For further instructions, **Officer Brett Leatherman, badge number GS-1367**, will be in contact with you. Your full cooperation in this matter is essential for the successful resolution of this case. Should you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us via our secure line number.

Recorded Line / Secure Line: (240)-206-1697

Recording ID: FEDG1367

OMB Number: 106210

Officer In-charge: Officer Brett Leatherman

(Make sure you ask for the password provided to you every time you receive a call from us)

Password: "BLONDI"

Sincerely,

brett 

Officer Brett Leatherman

Cyber Deputy Assistant Director – FBI

Joint Operation- NCIJTF

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Federal Bureau of Investigation – NCIJTF. Washington, DC 20535.