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## **Did Gov. Deal Trigger #PumpkinGate Incident?**

DAWSONVILLE GA – Evidence in the trial of videographer Nydia Tisdale indicates that a staff member for Georgia Governor Nathan Deal may have made the request to halt recording of campaign speeches at a publically advertised Republican rally on Burt's Pumpkin Farm. Rally organizer Clint Bearden and property owner Johnny Burt confirmed pre-trial testimony that a Deal staffer named Mack Burgess made the request. The 25 year old Deal staffer who served as a Republican field representative was killed in a GA400 auto accident less than two months after the August 23, 2014 rally.

Mrs. Tisdale was arrested while quietly and openly recording the rally as she had done in the past for a variety of local and state candidates including Deal and U.S. Senator David Perdue. Mrs. Tisdale posts the videos without filtering or political commentary on her AboutForsyth.com web site for anyone in the public to see. Four statewide Republican officeholders testified on Thursday that they had no objections to having their speeches recorded at the public campaign event. Each candidate won office in the November 2014 general election. No candidate testified as opposing the video recording.

Governor Deal made a motion to quash his subpoena and Judge Martha Christian eventually accepted it on the technicality that he was served as the governor and not an individual. In perhaps the most bizarre ruling of the day, Judge Christian disallowed key defense questions to Georgia Attorney General (AG) Sam Olens. Just days before the event his office won a judgement against the city of Cumming after the Mayor prevented Mrs. Tisdale from recording a public meeting and had her removed. Although that event was mentioned during state witness testimony, the jury will not know the role of the AG office on Mrs. Tisdale's case. They will also not hear Mr. Olens' recorded speech at the farm where he opened by saying:

- "Let me be possibly politically incorrect here for a second. If we stand for anything as a party what are we afraid of with the lady having a camera filming us? What are we saying here that shouldn't be on film? What message are we sending? Because it's private property they shouldn't be filming? What is the harm? The harm that this poses is far greater than her filming us. What are we hiding? If we are telling you why we are running and what we stand for, what are we hiding? There is no reason for that. That is not right. It is private property. The private property owner has the right to not have the person there. Who is the winner in the long run? Not a good move."

Olens left his Attorney General position after being appointed as President of Kennesaw State University.