Understanding and Interacting with:
Sovereign Citizens
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Sovereign Citizens: Defined

• Reject US citizenship, and operate outside of laws, and regulations

• May call themselves:
  – State citizens
  – Freemen
  – Preamble citizens
  – Non-resident aliens
  – Constitutionalists
  – Indigenous Americans
Sovereign Citizens: Moorish Nation

- “Moors”, “Moorish”, or “Murrish”
- Add “Ali”, “El”, “Dey”, “Bey”, and/or “Al” to last names.
- “American Foreign National”, or “Diplomat” of the Moorish American national government.
Sovereign Citizens: Posse Comitatus

• “Power of the County”

• Original followers: anti-government militia, white supremacists, and other radical groups

• Goal: “Restore the Republic”
Sovereign Citizens: Common Beliefs

- Belief in “common law” / “God’s law”
- Well studied in history and conspiracy theories
- Assert principles of founding documents
  - Declaration of Independence
  - Articles of Confederation
  - U. S. Constitution
Sovereign Citizens: Core Beliefs

- The federal government operates as a corporation
- Reject authority of Government & Officials
- Amendments, laws, and regulations are illegitimate
- State citizenship not US Citizenship
Meet Your Strawman!
Sovereign Citizens:
STRAWMAN

• STRAWMAN is “Legal Fiction” of a person
• Anyone can become free from:
  – Licenses, registrations, Social Security
  – Taxes
  – Laws and regulations
  – Federal, state, and local government authority
Sovereign Citizens: Indicators - Written

Signatures & Markings

- All lower or Upper case
- Unusual use of Colons
- Last Names = El or Bey
- Unnecessary Notary Seals

- All Rights Reserved
- Use of brackets:
  - Separate first & last name
  - Zip codes
- “Of Flesh & Blood"
Sovereign Citizens: Indicators - Written

Signatures & Markings

- Written in red ink
- Additional:
  - Red fingerprint
  - Personal or postal stamp
  - Under Duress
“Paper Terrorism”

• “The use of bogus legal documents and filings, or the misuse of legitimate documents, to intimidate, harass, threaten, or retaliate against public officials, law enforcement officers, or private citizens” (including bogus liens, frivolous law suits & involuntary bankruptcy filings)
Sovereign Citizens: What do they Want From the DMV?

• Revoke “Adhesion Contracts”
  – Driver’s Licenses
    • Freedom to Travel
  – Vehicle Titles
  – Vehicle Registration
  – Business Licenses
  – Incorporation Papers
Sovereign Citizens: Indicators – DMV

Documents

- Fraudulent
- Vehicle registrations
- Drivers licenses
- Birth Certificates
- Insurance cards
- Passports
- Identification cards
Sovereign Citizens: Indicators - Other
Sovereign Citizens: Interaction Safeguards

- **Do**
  - Smile
  - Be patient
  - Listen
    - Be attentive, non-judgmental, and show interest
  - Mirror
    - Show empathy by using some of their terms or gestures, but do not overdo it
Sovereign Citizens: Interaction Safeguards

• Do
  – Be calming
    • Speak a little more quietly and slowly than them
  – Avoid missteps
    • Do not appear unfriendly or impatient
Sovereign Citizens: Interaction Safeguards

• Do **NOT**
  – Challenge their documents or beliefs
  – Refer to their documents as fraudulent
  – Give your full name or other personal information
Sovereign Citizens: Reporting

- Document the interaction
- Contact Supervisor
- Regularly check your credit history
- If you are in fear of harm to yourself or others notify the police.
Sovereign Citizens: “A la carte”

- Selective government authority/processes
- Use Administrative processes
- Whatever best serves their beliefs/purposes
- Range from peaceful to nuisance to violent
NOTE:

Possessing or expressing Sovereign Citizen ideology is protected by the **FIRST AMENDMENT** and alone does not constitute illegal activity.
Questions?

Presented by:
Sydney Roberts
Director
Illinois Secretary of State Police
217-782-7150
sroberts@ilsos.net