



## Pierce County

### Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 946  
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2171  
Administration: (253) 798-7792  
FAX: (253) 798-2968

**MARK LINDQUIST**  
Prosecuting Attorney

Main Office: (253) 798-7400  
1-800-992-2456  
Valid only within Washington State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2011

### MAN SENTENCED FOR THREATS TO GOVERNOR

Robert Ray Locke, 51, of Graham, Washington, was sentenced today in Pierce County Superior Court to 12 months in jail for Making a Threat to the Governor and/or her Family. A jury deliberated for less than one hour before finding Locke guilty as charged on April 15.

On January 25, threatening messages were received through the Governor's web page. One message stated in part, "I hope you have the opportunity to see one of your family members raped and murdered by a sexual predator." A second stated, "You should be burned at the stake like any heretic." The defendant also filled out an "event request" form which asked for the Governor's "public execution." It was requested by "Robb Locke" and the organization of "Gregoire Must Die."

Washington State Patrol detectives quickly tracked down Locke using a telephone number and e-mail address provided in the messages. When contacted, Locke admitted to sending the messages from a friend's computer. He said he was upset at the Governor in 1999, when she was Attorney General, and was not able to help him recover some unpaid wages. Locke was also angry because he had received letters in early December notifying him that his DSHS benefits would be reduced. He apologized to detectives and said he just wanted to give her "a piece of my mind."

"We take seriously any threats against the governor and any other public officials, especially in light of the assassination attempt in January on U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords," said Prosecutor Mark Lindquist.

Judge Susan Serko sentenced Locke to 12 months of community custody following his release from jail with a condition of a mental health evaluation and any recommended treatment. A No Contact Order was also entered for the Governor and her family. Deputy Prosecutor Pat Cooper, Team Chief of the Robbery/Assault Unit, prosecuted the case.

For additional information please contact Rebecca Stover at (253) 798-4910 or [rstover@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:rstover@co.pierce.wa.us).

