

Things go sideways fast for conservative reporter outside methadone clinic

A conservative reporter in Maine appeared to narrowly avoid being struck by a vehicle Thursday during a tense confrontation outside a Bangor methadone clinic he was investigating.

Video published by The Maine Wire shows reporter Joe Sokol speaking with a man who objected to Sokol filming outside the Bangor Comprehensive Treatment Center.

“You’re invading people’s privacy here. Confidentiality, you realize that?” the man told him.

Sokol pushed back, asking how filming from a public area while working on a news report amounted to invading anyone’s privacy.

The man then drove away while Sokol continued speaking to the camera and described him as “possibly intoxicated.”

Moments later, the encounter took a much more serious turn.

Footage shows Sokol suddenly jumping backward as a vehicle that appeared to belong to the same man came dangerously close to hitting him. The camera was knocked down during the incident, but Sokol could still be heard calling out the vehicle’s license plate as it drove away.

Additional security footage released by The Maine Wire showed just how close the vehicle came to Sokol.

The reporter later approached the treatment center and accused staff of being connected to the driver.

“Your patient just tried to run me over,” Sokol said in the footage.

A woman identified by the outlet as the center’s owner responded by accusing Sokol of trying to intimidate her and told him to leave the property.

Sokol later told Fox News Digital that he had been investigating the addiction treatment facility and that Bangor police were called to the scene. He said the driver

had been identified, although he did not know at the time whether the man had been taken into custody.

Sokol said the confrontation was only the latest example of hostility directed at Maine Wire reporters in Bangor.

“I currently have an active death-threat investigation that has sat on the district attorney’s desk for more than a month,” he said.

Sokol said he has also been assaulted multiple times, including one case that resulted in a charge that was later dropped by prosecutors. He said Maine Wire cameraman Adam Stade was nearly attacked by several homeless people in Bangor only weeks earlier.

The Maine Wire issued a statement praising Sokol for keeping his composure and said he had been investigating the clinic’s use of taxpayer money.

According to the publication, the Bangor treatment center has received roughly $25 million through Medicaid. The outlet sharply criticized the clinic and said it intends to continue examining the organization, its funding and the circumstances surrounding Thursday’s confrontation.

“We will continue to investigate this organization, its enablers, and the employees who appeared to be accessories after the fact rather than Good Samaritans,” the publication said.

The Maine Wire also thanked the Bangor Police Department for its response and said it would provide investigators with identifying information about the driver and vehicle along with its account of the incident.

The outlet said its reporters would continue pursuing the story despite the confrontation.