

Kevin Nerwinski

From: Cathleen Lewis <cathleenmlewis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 7:14 PM
To: Kevin Nerwinski
Subject: Re: Chief Ubry

I am happy to have a conversation with you whenever you would like, your email raises even more concerns than when you and I initially spoke.

On Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 6:01 PM, Kevin Nerwinski <knerwinski@lawrencetwp.com> wrote:

<http://www.trentonian.com/general-news/20171023/lawrence-police-chief-hit-with-sexual-harassment-complaint>

Mayor and Council:

Following up with my brief phone call to each of you, above is the link to the article regarding a sexual harassment complaint against the chief by [REDACTED]. The article contains no substantive information but simply states that a sexual harassment complaint had been filed by [REDACTED].

Although I have been under a gag order (i.e., precluded by law to speak with anyone about this matter) by the Prosecutor's officer since the inception of it's investigation, I can reveal to you the following sequence of events:

The same day that I originally met with [REDACTED] who reported allegations to me, I made the determination that there were of a substance that pursuant to Attorney General Guidelines required my reporting them to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. Before doing so, I met with labor counsel Jen Roselle, who confirmed my obligation. That same afternoon I contacted Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri and reported the allegations to him. He placed me under a "gag" order. I met with the Prosecutor and Investigators as soon as they were able to gather (2 days later) and they took control and commenced the investigation. Pending the outcome, I made arrangements to move Jennifer Thomas to the Recreation office to separate her from the Chief for obvious reasons.

Today, the Mayor came to see me indicating that the Trentonian called him wanting a comment on the "sexual harassment" complaint against the Chief. I informed him that I was unable to speak substantively to him about the allegations, but confirmed that a complaint had been made and is being investigated by the Prosecutor's Office. After that meeting, I met with Chief Ubry to discuss how I was proceeding and that, of course, pending

the prosecutor's investigation I am taking no action against at this time...not on the allegations that were made to me by [REDACTED]. I received a call from Councilmember Bobbitt who had received the same request from the Trentonian...and I explained the same to him as I did to the Mayor. Councilman Powers called and I spoke with him giving the same details. Immediately thereafter, I had a meeting with the Lieutenants of the Police Dept to inform them about what was happening and to make sure they understood that "allegations" do not mean guilt and that our Township position is that we are to have no comment until the Prosecutor completes the investigation. Once that meeting concluded, I called Councilmember Lewis with the intent to provide her with the same information as the other members. I then called Councilmember Kownacki to let him know what was happening.

The Prosecutor does not intend to reach a conclusion to the investigation for a couple of weeks. Once I have been informed of the result and have been released to speak with you substantively I will. I caution all of you that these are allegations and they have been taken seriously and dealt with diligently. We have two employees involved in this, and I committed to treating both of them fairly and properly. I am not looking for a response as I would like to limit our communications on this issue at this time.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH "OPMA" LAW, DO NOT RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY TO THIS EMAIL. THERE CAN BE NO EXCHANGE OF IDEAS OR THOUGHTS AMONG YOU BY EMAIL ON THE ISSUE DISCLOSED HEREIN. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EMAIL IS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING A PENDING TOWNSHIP ISSUE. YOU MAY CONTACT ME DIRECTLY SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Kevin

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NOTE: I am not authorized to practice law on behalf of the Township of Lawrence. Communications with me are not protected by the attorney-client privilege.