

From: Brianna McKeage <bmckeage@hartford-vt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 6:39:50 AM
To: John Haverstock <jhaverstock@hartford-vt.org>
Cc: Daniel Bennett <dbennett@hartford-vt.org>
Subject: Formal Complaint

Dear Mr. John Haverstock,

I am writing to formally submit a complaint regarding recent misconduct within the Hartford Police Department involving Chief Kelley and Trainee Kelsi Nanatovich. I respectfully request guidance on how to proceed, as I am not a town employee but serve as an embedded Police Social Worker employed by Health Care and Rehabilitative Services (HCRS). Given the nature and gravity of these events, I am compelled to bring this matter to your direct attention, as the issues described herein constitute sexual harassment, workplace retaliation, and an escalating hostile work environment. Attached are supplemental complaints with clear detail of the situation, Corporal Bennett and I utilized to address this matter using our appropriate chain of command, which has received no appropriate follow up or follow through.

1. Defamatory Allegations and Lack of Action by Chief Kelley

On May 12, both Corporal Daniel Bennett and I were falsely accused and questioned regarding whether we were in an intimate relationship, with the implication that we were conducting ourselves inappropriately while on duty. On May 13, I approached Chief Kelley about the situation, which became an informal reprimand which resulted in her suggesting we not patrol together to avoid "perception" and came across as a clear reprimand to which she had no evidence to do so. I re-addressed this matter directly in an email to Chief Kelley on June 6, clearly requesting that these unfounded rumors be stopped. To date, I have received no response or acknowledgment.

Since the initial allegation, the rumors have spread widely throughout the department, causing significant professional harm. I want to emphasize:

- It is entirely inappropriate and unprofessional for such an invasive and accusatory question to be asked without any evidence.
- The accusation was made without any direct communication with me and was spread through gossip and speculation.

In response to these baseless rumors, Chief Kelley launched an informal "investigation" by contacting multiple staff members, including Cpl. Bennett's direct supervisor, to ask if anyone had witnessed any inappropriate conduct. This kind of approach not only lacked procedural

fairness, but also fueled further gossip, undermined the credibility of both myself and Cpl. Bennett, and created a hostile environment. No misconduct or unprofessional behavior was found—because none occurred.

2. Harassment and False Claims by Trainee Nanatovich

On June 4, Trainee Nanatovich contacted her Field Training Officer (FTO), Cpl. Bennett via text, stating that she felt “unsafe” working with him and claimed that he was “distracted by me.” These statements appeared after she became aware of the circulating rumors and are clearly rooted in personal grievance and jealousy rather than any factual basis or observable behavior.

Key facts to consider:

- Trainee Nanatovich originally requested to be assigned to Cpl. Bennett as her FTO and referred to him inappropriately in the workplace as her “work husband.”
- I have never responded to a call with both Cpl. Bennett and Trainee Nanatovich, giving her no basis whatsoever to assert that he is distracted by my presence or that his performance is impaired.
- Cpl. Bennett and I have a strong and professional rapport with community members, and there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

It is also deeply concerning that Trainee Nanatovich has repeatedly bypassed the chain of command and appears to be using personal relationships within the department to influence outcomes in her favor. Her actions demonstrate a lack of professionalism, and the appearance of favoritism by Chief Kelley has been noted by multiple peers.

3. Pattern of Dishonesty and Continued Gossip

Cpl. Bennett filed a complaint, which included his union representative, his supervisor, and the FTO sergeant. A follow-up meeting was held the next day, where Nanatovich was reportedly spoken to directly by Sgt Furnari, and a reminder was supposed to be given to all shifts to refrain from engaging in gossip, this only occurred that evening with all officers who didn't participate in the gossip, not all of those who did contribute.

Despite this, the following occurred:

- That same evening, Nanatovich went out socially with other officers and continued to disparage both myself and Cpl. Bennett. After being told to "avoid the subject like the plague". - Sgt Furnari.

- When directly asked by Sergeant Furnari, if she had told another officer that “Bennett rode into work with Brie,” she denied saying it—despite reports to the contrary from a credible law enforcement officer. Lying to a superior officer again.
- Her claim that she suddenly felt "unsafe" working with her FTO, despite months of close working relations as the PSW and as an officer, is unsubstantiated and appears to be a deliberate manipulation of departmental trust.

The fact that a trainee has been permitted to continue engaging in gossip and lying about other staff members without disciplinary consequences is alarming. This behavior not only undermines morale but is also ethically and professionally unacceptable—particularly in a law enforcement setting.

4. Concerns of Retaliation and Organizational Risk

Several individuals have suggested that Chief Kelley could just cancel the contract between HCRS and the Hartford Police Department, potentially in retaliation for this situation. Such a move would be retaliatory in nature and would negatively affect the department’s access to mental health resources and community support services.

HCRS leadership is aware of the previous sexual harassment situation and has expressed concern. It has been extremely difficult to advocate for my own safety and wellbeing under these conditions. I am deeply concerned that within just six months of working in this department, I have experienced repeated sexual harassment, defamation, and professional sabotage with little to no recourse.

Chief Kelley’s lack of response to my written concerns and her failure to intervene appropriately only further confirms that a higher level of accountability and oversight is necessary.

5. Formal Requests for Action

Accordingly, I am formally requesting the following:

- A formal, impartial investigation conducted by the Town Manager’s office or an external HR authority into Chief Kelley’s conduct and the departmental response to these events.
- A thorough review of Trainee Nanatovich’s behavior, including her compliance with the department’s code of conduct and truthfulness.
- Assurance that there will be no retaliation against myself or Cpl Bennett or any interference with the professional relationship between HCRS and Hartford PD.

I trust that you will give this complaint the urgent and serious attention it deserves. I respectfully request the opportunity to engage in a formal conversation to further discuss these matters. Additionally, I am CC'ing Corporal Bennett, who is directly affected by this and who has expressed a desire to participate in this process and speak regarding his experiences and concerns related to this complaint.

Respectfully,

Brie McKeage

HCRS Police Liaison
Hartford Police Department
812 VA Cutoff Rd
White River Jct, VT 05001
Call or Text 802-236-8447



[Book time to meet with me](#)

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