

From: Brianna McKeage <bmckeage@hcrs.org>

Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 4:38 PM

To: Knowles Wentworth <wwentwor@hcrs.org>

Subject: Re: Suspension of Relationship With the Town of Hartford Police Department

Dear HCRS Leadership,

Thank you for your continued support during the recent series of events involving the Hartford Police Department, and more specifically, Chief Kelley. I want to be clear—I did not, and would never, threaten a law enforcement officer. I greatly valued my position with HPD, even during challenging times and despite the treatment I received from a small number of individuals. I was also fortunate to be supported and appreciated by many others.

In my role, I worked hard to strike a balance between advancing restorative justice—repairing relationships strained by the badge—and fully supporting the thin blue line. Unfortunately, it appears the Town of Hartford is using my words as an opportunity to remove someone who believes that accountability should have no limitations. My advocacy for myself is being reframed as a justification for my removal, which I believe constitutes defamation and slander.

It's important to note that this situation does not begin or end with me. A Corporal is pursuing a sexual harassment and defamation claims, and the Chief's administrative assistant is pursuing a harassment and targeting claim related to being treated poorly. The ongoing internal investigation extends far beyond my situation—my involvement is only a fraction of it. The broader culture of the department is under scrutiny, which I believe speaks for itself: this is not a "me" problem, but a systemic one. Additionally, the Chief put out a statement to the PD saying she ended the contract, and evidently there is a clear uproar about that decision, and the writing is on the walls; naturally I have built relationships with my HPD colleagues and a number of individuals had contacted me with concern, to check in on my emotionally well-being. Additionally, "Dillon" the Town IT director, who was ordered in off bereavement, to cut off my email access had contacted via text, the Chief's admin with an outside lens of the situation, again I provide this in my defense that this is merely a tactic to evade responsibility for

the wrongdoing and harassment that has consumed my personal and professional life, and Town Staff and HPD is acutely aware of this targeting.

Prior to learning about the email in stating termination, I was drafting a request to work from home next week, as I felt personally threatened by the Chief for advocating for myself. I had asked a friend to review my draft at 4:40 p.m. to ensure clarity, as I was admittedly emotional. I had specifically requested that my Lieutenant, Randy St. Peter, be present during my conversation with the Chief because I did not trust her intentions. My goal in the discussion was to address the ongoing rumors circulating while on duty and to respectfully ask that they stop. (Detail of that conversation is below)

For clarity on the sequence of events:

- I spoke with Connie with my LT present, prior to 1:30 pm and continued to work with my LT following that discussion without mention of any wrong doing.
- I called Dispatch at roughly 4:20pm, on my own accord as business as usual.
- Paula's email was sent at 4:35 p.m.
- I do not have my HCRS email on my personal phone, so I did not see it at the time.
- I missed Becky's call at 5:05 p.m. but returned it at 5:12 p.m.
- I had no knowledge of the Chief claiming I made a threatening statement prior to reading the email from Paula, prior to speaking with Knowles at 6:pm.
- If the Chief truly believed my words were a threat, I question why I was not immediately asked to leave, as I remained at work until 4:20 p.m.

I believe this timeline is important to establish that I had no awareness of the accusation at the time and that my actions that day were professional and appropriately aligned with someone who has been harassed and now stalked, for three months with no end in sight. Additionally, I plan to file a request for a stalking order of protection against the primary aggressor.

Below is the proposed email I had been preparing for Knowles, which outlines my conversation with Chief Kelley and my witness, A/LT Randy St. Peter, and I had sent it as shown above in my text to my friend, at 4:40pm for review, demonstrating I had no prior knowledge once again of the alleged threat or termination email, and this conversation took place on my personal cell phone.

Thank you for taking the time to review this.

Sincerely,

Brie McKeage