

Robert Hermansen

From: Robert Hermansen
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 1:23 AM
To: Brian Chewcaskie; Quentin Wiest; William Laforet; mgjacobbe@cgaljlaw.com
Cc: Jonathan Wong; Janet Ariemma; James Wysocki; George Ervin; Steve Sbarra; David May
Subject: Chief Batelli's email

I spoke to 3 of you today and as I lay in my bed having a hard time sleeping I just wanted to share some of my thoughts.

Mayor you and I spoke today about the Chief's e-mail stating I gave you a directive to call him in regards to a tour of a family in our police station. You agreed with me that I never gave you a directive and that I could not give you a directive. I reiterated the same thing to Brian and Quentin. Tonight after my game I received a call from Jessica at the Associated Press telling me that the Chief is again on record stating I made disparaging remarks about a religious group and that I directed the mayor to call him over it. I am asking that the Mayor and our attorney to respond to this, informing the Police Chief that he is not telling the truth and to please retract his statement to the press and the public and in his email.

I am starting to become seriously concerned with the continual lies that are coming from the department head of our police department. Chief Batelli blatantly lied to the PBA and the rank and file over our rules and regulations. He also lied to them in regards to who was responsible for introducing and changing them. He then continued to lie to them over who changed the language and what we were trying to do with covering of their tattoos and their breaks and where they could go for lunch. We all know this impossible as not one member of the Council had ever seen those rules and regulations. In fact, those rules and regulations were given to the Police Chief more than an entire week before they were even discussed with the Council. He then took that privileged information and forwarded them to the PBA even though it stated clearly on them PRIVILEGED. Then 2 days ago the Chief again sent us another email attacking me. It was the 2nd attack email that was sent by him about me and our Council within the last 3 days. This is another pattern that we have seen from him over the years I have served on the Council. Attack, after attack, on each council member asking that they recuse themselves due to his comments about them. He has attacked department heads and even went as far as walking into the consultant, that the Council hired to help make a recommendation who our new DPW Head would be, to tell them why a certain person could not be hired for the position. He will tell you he has a right to his opinion. He now is telling us that he only found out about our park ordinance in July, even though the council, our attorney and administration had been talking about this issue since May. I will repeat as I have to you now several other times already that the attorney makes ordinances that they believe is the best law, we pass the laws and the head of law enforcement enforces the laws. During discussions about the ordinance it was told to the ordinance committee that the Chief did not want to enforce the ordinance without further guidance from administration or our attorney general. I am still trying to figure how administration is supposed to know about law enforcement than the head of our department. I am also confused how our Chief of Police ended up at our Prosecutor's office when he told us he would be contacting the Attorney General.

As for the ERUV he is claiming that I am telling people he approved the ERUV. This is another lie, I am on the record stating that no one in town ever gave permission for the PVC pipe to be placed on the utility poles. I had spoken to Mike Kelly about this issue and we discussed a potential letter he was considering writing. After speaking to the Mayor, Mike wrote a letter and addressed this situation, that no one in administration gave permission to place anything on the poles and that permission would be needed in order to do so. What I have stated to individuals is that the Chief knew about ERUV as he supplied security detail for the installation but that he never nor did anyone else give the approval for the installation of the PVC pipes. His continual lies has now put Mahwah in a very difficult position in regards to a religious community. He also has stated on the record that he was being asked by our residents to put forth an ordinance to keep Orthodox Jews out of our parks. I am confused by this as he does not make the laws but enforces them, of course only when he does not have issues with enforcing them. I can go on and on from telling us he did not want to enforce the no

left turn on Brook, to the hostile work environment he charged against Councilman Roth and myself and so on. I am asking we start to look into departmental charges and discipline against him. I would like to know what the Council's rights are and what if anything we can do to stop the Police Chief from lying in his emails and to the public and the press. If I recall and we did tape the meeting the Police Chief told us that the 1st rule and reg, every cop must follow is that they are not allowed to lie, lying is grounds for dismissal. If a police officer lies how can you believe him or her again. We have a wonderful police department and one which we should all be proud of, we should also be able to be proud of whoever is in charge of the department. At this time I believe that is not possible. Please advise the Council of what we can and what we should do in order to deal with this continuing situation. Our Mahwah residents and our Police Department deserve better than this. I ask this be kept confidential as this is client attorney privilege over a personnel matter. Thank you for prompt attention to this matter. I will be forwarding this email also to the Council. I ask that they too keep this email and the responses from our attorneys confidential, unless stated otherwise by our counsel.

Sincerely yours,

Robert G. Hermansen

Sent from my iPad