



Robb Tadelman for McHenry County Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

May 13, 2022

Contact: Jim Thacker 815-715-3130

Statement from Robb Tadelman on the court's decision in the Colatorti Objection

McHenry County: I disagree with the judge's decision in this case but that is his job and his interpretation of a brand-new law. I understand the complexity of this issue because in a similar case in a neighboring county, the judge interpreted the same law differently. I continue to support the objectors in this case and their decision to challenge the qualifications of my opponent to run for this office based on the law.

While the objection tends to get most of the media attention the campaigns of both my opponent and I have continued on, and ultimately the voters will decide on June 28th. This campaign is indeed about qualifications and integrity, and I look forward to continuing to inform voters about the facts, above the clatter and noise that surrounds campaigns.

In an effort to inform the public about what is at stake our campaign continues to unearth more information that gives us a clearer picture of the record. Recently we let the public know about some details about my opponent's experience. The fact that as a part-time law enforcement officer, in his various agencies in McHenry County, he was involved in only three felony and misdemeanor cases flies in the face of his supporters claims that their support is based on Tony's "investigative experience".

There are also a lot of inconsistencies in my opponent's story about the circumstances surrounding his departure from his job as Chief of Police in Prairie Grove. Tony claims he resigned but new results from a series of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests shows that he was asked to resign, or he would be terminated. This is important because it is part of Tony's record and speaks to his management experience. I am attaching some of the new documents but I would urge you to follow me on Facebook for more information.

My campaign will continue to bring this information to the public and we will continue to point out the differences between myself and my opponent.

###

Subject: Termination of Employment

From: "David F. Underwood" <dunderwood@prairiegrove.org>

Date: 9/22/2020, 5:01 PM

To: Tony Colatorti <tcolatorti@prairiegrove.org>

CC: David McArdle <dmcardle@zrfmlaw.com>, Mike Freese <administrator@prairiegrove.org>

Mr. Colatorti,

Pursuant to the Village of Prairie Grove Municipal Code, effective as of 5:01 PM, September 22, 2020, your employment with the Village of Prairie Grove is hereby terminated. You are instructed to return all Village property to Village Hall, 3125 Barreville Road, Prairie Grove, IL 60012 by Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Administrator Freese and/or Village Attorney McArdle will contact you in the event any further information needs to be exchanged.

David F. Underwood, Ph.D., President
Village of Prairie Grove
3125 Barreville Road, Prairie Grove, IL 60012
[REDACTED]
president@prairiegrove.org

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Removal of Police Powers - Effective Immediately

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Subject: Removal of Police Powers - Effective Immediately
From: "David F. Underwood" <dunderwood@prairiegrove.org>
Date: 9/18/2020, 5:03 PM
To: Tony Colatorti <tcolatorti@prairiegrove.org>
CC: Mike Freese <administrator@prairiegrove.org>, David McArdle <dmcardle@zrfmlaw.com>
BCC: Dave Underwood <dunderwood@prairiegrove.org>

Tony,

Effective immediately, I am withdrawing your police powers in the Village of Prairie Grove. All Village property in your possession is to be returned to the chief's office in Village Hall by Sunday, September 20, 2020.

As we discussed on the phone, you will have the ability to resign from the Village of Prairie Grove Police Department if a resignation letter is received by me, Administrator Freese or Attorney McArdle by 5:00 PM, Monday, September 21, 2020. If a resignation letter is not received by that time, I will be compelled to seek termination of your employment at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

I am disappointed that this action must be taken, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

David F. Underwood, Ph.D., President
Village of Prairie Grove
3125 Barreville Road, Prairie Grove, IL 60012
[REDACTED]
president@prairiegrove.org

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September 17, 2020

TO: Village Administrator Freese
FROM: Village President Underwood
RE: Discipline – Chief Tony Colatorti

Description of Incident

Over the course of the last month, Administrator Freese expressed concerns to me over Chief Colatorti's performance, ultimately recommending dismissal. I talked to Chief Colatorti about the allegations, wherein he denied any wrongdoing. Some of the concerns that Admin. Freese expressed were witnessed by, or indirectly involved [REDACTED], who reports to Chief Colatorti.

On August 24, 2020, I became aware that Chief Colatorti had contacted Ms. [REDACTED] about the allegations, and, whether purposefully or not, placed her in a difficult situation of corroborating either the Village Administrator's version of the story or Chief Colatorti's. When I learned of this, I sent a text to Chief Colatorti stating "Please keep [REDACTED] out of this, as she is in a very difficult position."

On September 15, 2020, I had a conversation with Chief Colatorti about resignation of his position with the Village. Chief Colatorti was understandably upset and denied any wrongdoing on his part. During the conversation I brought up another performance issue raised by Administrator Freese that again indirectly involved Ms. [REDACTED]. Chief Colatorti again denied any wrongdoing. After hanging up with the Chief, I immediately received a phone call from Admin. Freese stating that Chief Colatorti was on the phone with Ms. [REDACTED] loudly proclaiming his innocence.

When I learned of this, I immediately called Chief Colatorti and asked if he had just called [REDACTED], which he admitted doing. I reminded him that I had previously given him direction to not question or involve Ms. [REDACTED] with regard to performance issues alleged against him. Chief Colatorti became defensive, proclaiming that he had a right to seek the truth as to whether Ms. [REDACTED] corroborated his side of the story.

I again stated that I did not want him questioning Ms. [REDACTED], as it effectively creates a conflict between corroborating the Village Administrator's story or the story of her direct supervisor. Chief Colatorti continued to argue until I was forced to explicitly state that I was now giving him a direct order to not interrogate Ms. [REDACTED] with regard to performance incidents alleged against him by the Village Administrator.

In speaking with Ms. [REDACTED] after the incident, she stated that she felt uneasy about the circumstances and agreed that she was placed in a conflicting position.

Ms. [REDACTED] is an invaluable member of the Village staff and should not be subjected to interrogation or placed anywhere within the realm of her supervisor's performance issues.

I had previously told Chief Colatorti not to question Ms. [REDACTED] about performance issues against him and raised by the Village Administrator, yet he ignored those instructions and repeated the same behavior. I cannot support the continued employment of a police chief who is insubordinate and places staff in such an uncomfortable position. For this reason and those previously expressed by the Village Administrator, I recommend termination of Chief Colatorti's employment with the Village.

RECOMMENDATION: Termination of employment.

By:

[REDACTED]

David F. Underwood, Ph.D.
Village President

SEPT. 17, 2020

Date

Mike Freese

From: David Underwood
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Mike Freese
Subject: Fwd: Letter to State Training Board

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Letter to State Training Board
Date: Wed, 9 Sep 2020 16:04:21 -0500
From: Tony Colatorti <tcolatorti@prairiegrove.org>
To: Mike Freese <mfreese@prairiegrove.org>
CC: David Underwood <dunderwood@prairiegrove.org>

I'm asking that the village write a letter to the state training board explains why we are no longer going full time and why I had to change my status back. I don't want to have to go through a 12 week academy if either the village decides to go full time or if I take a opportunity else where. I understand Covid 19 effectively change the villages course, so for that I'm asking the village to please explain this to the training board.

Thank you.
Chief Colatorti

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