

August 26, 2022

Daniel C. Brown, Mansfield Labor Counsel

For immediate release:

This statement is made on behalf of the Town to provide an update on the status of Police Chief Ronald Sellon. As mentioned in the Town's July 17, 2022 statement, the Town engaged a physician to conduct an examination of Chief Sellon and prepare a final report after reviewing the Matthews' investigation report. That report is now complete. It has been determined that Chief Sellon is currently not fit to serve as the Mansfield Police Chief.

The Matthews' investigation revealed many instances of extremely inappropriate workplace behavior by Chief Sellon. These included, but were not limited to, fits of rage resulting in damage to police department property; continual profanity-laced text messages and screaming outbursts directed at subordinates; threats to suspend and terminate employees; and general bullying, abusive, and angry conduct.

The behavior that was endured by police department personnel was unacceptable. Recently, some direct evidence of this behavior was discovered. On the evening of May 10, 2022, the night of the Town election, a doorbell camera recorded Chief Sellon engaging in one of his rage outbursts. He can be heard from several hundred feet away, pounding on objects, swearing, and ranting with insults and anger toward the Town of Mansfield, its residents, the Town Manager, and the Chairperson of the Selectboard. This is the type of egregious behavior endured by several police department employees over the course of several years.

Again, the Town has done its best to maintain the integrity of the investigative process and the privacy of all involved in this matter. However, at a certain point, it is appropriate to inform the citizens of Mansfield what the investigation has revealed. This is especially true given the fact that Chief Sellon chose to publicly comment on the matter, denying that any of his behavior amounted to misconduct and declaring that he is fit to serve as the Mansfield Chief of Police.

Now that the investigation has concluded and the physician's report has been finalized, the Town will begin the process of dealing with Chief Sellon's employment status. There will be further updates to the extent significant developments occur which can be shared publicly. Finally, it should be noted that the Town has received multiple public records requests for the Matthews' investigation report. The Supervisor of Public Records recently conducted a review of the report and the Town is issuing a redacted version, consistent with the Public Records Law. Again, when any other developments occur that can be shared publicly, a further update will be issued.