

April 2, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

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Re: William Perry/Peter Henrikson/Ethics Complaint No. 2018-4

Dear Dave:

I represent William C. Perry in regard to an ethics complaint filed against him by former Fire Chief Peter Henrikson last month. Lt. Perry learned of the Complaint on Saturday when a Town resident, Jody Stone, tweeted a photo of the Complaint. Lt. Perry has received no official notice of the Complaint.

Today, I obtained a copy of Henrikson's complaint from the Rhode Island Ethics Commission which reveals some disturbing facts that the Town Council should be aware of. First, Henrikson failed to provide the Commission with Mr. Perry's home address. Instead, he provided them with the address of the Fire Department (284 Main Street) and the phone number to his wife Kristen Henrikson's office (401-886-8686). According to the Ethics Commission, they sent Lt. Perry a copy of Henrikson's complaint over two weeks ago to that address. However, that mail was never forwarded to him. The Commission sent a second document to Lt. Perry on March 27, 2018 at the address provided by Henrikson. He has not received that document either. Could you please look into this issue? Also, please advise who at the Town is responsible for forwarding Fire Department mail to the appropriate person. Obviously, if a town employee either opened Lt. Perry's mail or disposed of it, that employee may have committed a felony. Accordingly, we expect the Town to investigate this matter.

Second, Henrikson provided the Ethics Commission with Town and Union records that are not available to the public, including a Bid Transfer notice, a Shift Schedule and a document entitled "East Greenwich Fire Department Fill-In Procedures." We expect the Town to investigate how Henrikson obtained these documents. Does he have access to the Fire Department offices? If so, does he have access to other confidential information, including employee medical records? Or are Town employees sharing Department and Union records in violation of Town policies?

If you do not already have a copy of the Henrikson's Complaint (although, I note that you notarized the Complaint), I will forward it to you. Rest assured, though, Lt. Perry has committed no ethical violations. The complaint was likely an act of retaliation by the disgruntled former chief. In fact, a cursory review of the complaint shows that there are several misstatements of fact and a (likely intentional) misrepresentation of how the Department operates. I will be addressing these issues directly with the Ethics Commission.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me as soon as possible to advise me as to what steps the Town is taking to investigate this matter and whether Lt. Perry's missing mail has been located.

Very truly yours,



Elizabeth Wiens

cc: William Perry, President