



Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association Public Employees Association

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CFPBA SEEKS CRIMINAL PROBE INTO MELBOURNE CHIEF DAVID GILLESPIE; ASKS FOR TERMINATION BY CITY ADMINISTRATION

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Today the Coastal Florida PBA made the following statement, calling for a criminal investigation into Melbourne Police Chief David Gillespie and seeking his subsequent termination by the City. The CFPBA is the state-recognized Collective Bargaining Agent for Melbourne Officers, Sergeants and Lieutenants.

From CFPBA Executive Director Mike Scudiero:

"For the first time in over six years, the Coastal Florida PBA is publicly seeking the removal of a police chief. A request was forwarded to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and State Attorney Phil Archer today that asks them to investigate what we believe to be the criminal falsifying of separation paperwork of at least one former Melbourne Police Officer by a vindictive and vengeful Chief named David Gillespie.

"Chief Gillespie went above and beyond the norms – potentially to a criminal level – by falsely claiming this officer resigned while being investigated, knowing full well that the investigation had been completed at least two months before she submitted her resignation. And, worse, this may prove to be a part of a pattern of such behavior engaged in by Gillespie for the purpose of sabotaging the careers of police officers who dared to leave the agency for greener pastures.

"We believe this behavior may be both criminal on the part of the chief and a potential civil liability for the city. This shameful, malicious attempt to smear the work and reputation of a good officer months after her resignation cannot be tolerated. The chief has undeniably attempted to destroy the livelihood of officers he doesn't like. It really is as simple as that. This is having a debilitating effect on the morale of the department, has and will continue to stymie recruiting, and will do nothing to help a diminished retention rate that has grown steadily under his watch. The only recourse is for the chief to resign, but faced with the facts of this matter (see attached), he has stubbornly refused and has let it be known he would rather dig in to fight, even if it means a public battle. So that's what we will give him! Only the City of Melbourne Administration can help to end this sad chapter and rescue this department now.

To be clear, this is not something we at the CFPBA take lightly. With over two dozen collective bargaining units spread out over nine counties along the east coast of Florida, the CFPBA works professionally and diplomatically with almost all of chiefs and sheriffs in our jurisdiction, including this chief's predecessor. Sadly, this man has so greatly damaged the relationship with our members by his retaliatory and cowardly acts of revenge, that we have no other option but to demand his removal."

For more information, please contact Mike Scudiero at (386) 212-3957 or mscudiero@cfpba.us

Protecting The Protectors