



City of Omaha
Jean Stothert, Mayor

April 17, 2020

Colene Hinchey



Todd R. Schmaderer
Chief of Police

Omaha Police Department
"To Serve and Protect"
505 South 15th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2769
(402) 444-5600
fax (402) 444-5898
www.OmahaPolice.org

Dear Ms. Hinchey:

On February 19, 2020, you contacted the Internal Affairs Unit to formalize a citizen complaint against Omaha Police Deputy Chief Michele Bang. In your complaint, you alleged that Deputy Chief Michele Bang harassed you after you filed several FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests with the Omaha Police Department.

The complaint alleged that as early as in March of 2019, while you were on medical leave with the police department, Deputy Chief Bang "overstepped some boundaries" and you requested she leave you alone. You ultimately retired in September 2019. In late November and early December, you filed some FOIA requests and had contact with Deputy Chief Bang because she oversees the FOIA requests for the Omaha Police Department. You allege Deputy Chief Bang did not maintain her professionalism, addressed you inappropriately in some emails, and may have contacted friends of yours while you were filing these requests, and her contact with those friends may have cost you friendships and negatively impacted your life, therefore, harassing you.

The Internal Affairs Unit has completed the investigation of your complaint and I have reviewed the case file. I have reviewed the FOIA correspondence between you and Deputy Chief Bang and noted that Deputy Chief Bang was trying to get clarification for the requests to complete the requests appropriately and explain to you the legalities of your requests. Deputy Chief Bang tried to address you in the requests appropriately and respected your concern when you asked her to not address you in a certain manner. Deputy Chief Bang's email to you on December 24, 2019, appears to be an expression of concern for you and not harassment. She even recognizes you for your great work with the Omaha Police Department, especially the mental health program.

Regarding the allegation that Deputy Chief Michele Bang harassed you, the investigation found that the actions of Deputy Chief Bang were in accordance with Omaha Police Policies and Procedures Manual. Therefore, Deputy Chief Bang is exonerated in this matter.

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I understand your concern regarding this incident and hope that any future contact you have with the Omaha Police Department is more positive. You may file a "request for review" by the Citizens Complaint Review Board (CCRB). Forms are available in the Mayor's office at 1819 Farnam Street, online at <http://mayors-office.cityofomaha.org>, or by calling 402-444-5000.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Schmaderer
Chief of Police

TRS/ksk

cc: Bernard in den Bosch, City Law Department
David Grauman, Labor Relations Director
Deborah K. Sander, Human Resources Director
Sarah Lara-Toney, Human Resources, Executive Secretary

Deputy Chief Michele A. Bang
Kyle Porter, Police Personnel Supervisor
IA #: 2020-0109