

6. My relationship with Mr. Farley is very good natured and funny. Our communications and text messages back and forth reflect this relationship.

7. I understood that his message was made in jest, and I responded in kind. We continued the text conversation as normal. I mentioned that I was looking forward to seeing more of him now that our paths will likely cross through my employment with the Orono Fire Department.

8. I did not feel harassed, persecuted or anything negative upon receiving Mr. Farley's text message.

9. On September 26, 2023, I told Chief Van Eyll about this text message. Chief Van Eyll called me and we briefly talked about the text which I thought was more in a way to laugh about the text from Cody Farley. We talked for about five minutes and the majority of our conversation, and what I perceived the reason to be for Chief Van Eyll's call, revolved around the mediation between the cities which had transpired that day.

10. Upon learning that Chief Van Eyll told Mayor Walsh about the text message and took it completely out of context, I was upset with both of them. I knew that Mr. Farley was joking with me. He is a friend and someone I respect. I told Chief Van Eyll in a text message that "I applied to be a firefighter not a pawn in this drama."

11. Chief Van Eyll subsequently apologized to me for forwarding my text message out of context and sharing it with Mayor Walsh.

12. I told Chief Van Eyll that I needed time to decide whether I still wanted to work for Orono Fire. Chief Van Eyll responded, stating: "I completely understand and respect your decision. I hope you are able to allow me a second chance to earn your respect and confidence again."

13. On October 23, 2023, I decided to withdraw my candidacy for the Orono Fire Department. I sent the following text message to Chief Van Eyll: “I decided I do not want to join Orono fire due to your and the mayor’s actions I have completely lost my desire to work for Orono.”

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct. Executed on November 1, 2023 in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

s/Blair Mileski

4881-8062-7340, v. 1

MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH