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STATE OF MINNESOTA		DISTRICT COURT	
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN		FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
		File No. 27-CV-23-9758	
City of Long Lake,		CASE TYPE:	
	Plaintiff,		
v.		DECLARATION	N OF BLAIR MILESKI
City of Orono,			
	Defendant.		
STATE OF MINNESOTA	(
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) ss.		
I, Blair Mileski, declare as	follows:		

- 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained herein and am competent to testify to them.
- 2. I am an experienced firefighter and I used to work for the Long Lake Fire Department from about August 2016 to November 2020.
 - 3. On August 29, 2023, I decided to apply to the Orono Fire Department.
- 4. On September 19, 2023, I was given a conditional job offer from Orono that I accepted.
- 5. On September 26, 2023, I received a text message from my friend and former colleague Cole "Cody" Farley, asking me if the "rumors" were true that I was joining Orono Fire Department. His message stated, in part: "I have always known that your decision making skills were sus, but now you're not even trying."

- 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

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MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH