



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

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PRESS RELEASE

January 12, 2022

To: Press and Public

From: Select Board Chair

Re: Missing Firearm Update - Resignation of Police Sergeant Mike Marchand

As a follow-up to our earlier report that the missing firearm had been recovered, the Board is releasing both the initial and supplementary reports of the independent investigator hired by the Town to look into all the circumstances around the weapon's disappearance. In a related development, an agreement has been reached with Sergeant Mike Marchand of the Oak Bluffs Police Department who has resigned as of February 2, 2022. The missing rifle was the one assigned to Sgt. Marchand and while we may never know the exact whereabouts of the weapon at all times over the past few years, as the investigator's report concludes, the Sergeant violated department rules when he failed to properly care for and account for the weapon.

Contrary to erroneous news reports, no so-called "whistleblower" claim was ever filed by the Sergeant with any state or federal court or agency. This, along with a litany of other false claims appear to have been made by one of the Sergeant's lawyers in what may have been a misguided negotiation strategy aimed at securing a more favorable severance agreement. Quite frankly, this did not succeed. The agreement the Board reached with Sgt. Marchand is the same one the parties signed a month ago. A copy of the same is likewise being released today.

The Board members and I want to thank Mike for his many years of dedicated service to this community. We wish Mike and his family well and we hope we can all move forward from this unfortunate situation.