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Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

December 3rd, 2024

Re: Response from Sheriff Jesse Jahner on alleged criminal behavior on two former employees and one current employee currently placed on Administrative Leave.

“Our agency is extremely upset and disappointed to learn of the alleged criminal behavior of two former employees and a current employee who is on administrative leave. As Sheriff I will always stand with the men and women in Law Enforcement and the Law Enforcement Profession as one of their strongest supporters. Since I first began my career in Law Enforcement in 1998, I have devoted my life to protecting and serving our communities. As a Deputy I worked hard to build relationships, partnerships with our citizens and businesses. As Sheriff, I have encouraged and tried to foster a Mission, Vision and Values that encompasses honesty, integrity, professionalism, fairness and accountability. That is something that the men and women of the Cass County Sheriff’s Office strive for every day. As part of an effort to maintain those same values we conduct comprehensive background investigations of all potential employees that include but are not limited to financial inquiries, criminal background inquiries, personal and past employment inquiries and a polygraph examination. Our agency is large with approximately 235 employees. I understand as the leader of the organization that we are going to have staff that make mistakes. When they do, we look for ways to correct those behaviors. Internal issues can often be corrected through coaching and mentoring and when needed, disciplinary actions. Accountability, professionalism, integrity and honesty are the forefront of correcting those mistakes. But when our employees cross the line of alleged criminal behaviors that cannot be tolerated. The alleged behavior of these three individuals is behavior that has caused a range of emotions for our staff from betrayal, frustration, embarrassment and anger. Emotions that stem from a belief that our staff are going to do the right things every day both on and off duty

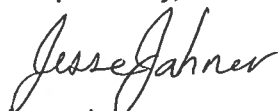
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so that our community trusts and believes in us. I stand with our staff and the law enforcement profession when I say that those in our profession who commit this type of alleged activity are not welcome at our organization, or in the law enforcement profession and should be held accountable through our criminal justice process. The Cass County Sheriff's Office will continue to cooperate with all entities involved with the investigation and potential prosecution of these cases."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Jahner".

Jesse Jahner

Cass County Sheriff