

This needs to be made perfectly clear to everyone here, department heads, council, mayor and citizens, so we can put it to bed once and for all. I find this necessary because it seems everyone has their theory of how things went down with then Chief Kopatich (now to be referred to as just Kopatich) but none of you have the truth so I am going to lay it out for you here so there are no more questions and conspiracy theories about font size or any other such nonsense.

In October of 2020 I was informed by an employee of the city. Someone who would know this as fact, that Kopatich had failed to be qualified for use of his service weapon and had not been qualified to use that weapon for four years. This is an illegal act for Kopatich to be carrying his service weapon and not have qualified, perhaps even a felony, he was not keeping records and even falsified records, these actions also have legal consequences. I want to be perfectly clear here when I say the person who informed me was NOT Lisa Kotter!

I waited until March 19th to take any action as I was trying to protect the identity of the person who had informed me, unfortunately their identity was found out and they were retaliated against by Kopatich, I will not go into details here in open session to protect their identity.

On March 19th 2021 I approached Kopatich and requested training and qualifying records for all officers including Kopatich.

2 weeks later I had not received anything from Kopatich so on the 2nd of April 2021 I handed a FOIA request to Denise Benson, Kopatich and Lisa Kotter. On the 9th of April I checked with Kopatich about my request and he told me he was going to check with Lisa Kotter and the States Attorney. On the 16th of April I checked back again with Kopatich and received part of what I had asked for but the documents were not completed properly and only half done with no verification of qualifying. On the 23rd of April, still not having received all of the information from the FOIA request I had submitted to Kopatich I sent an email to the council and mayor requesting a special meeting. The mayor called me and said "what are you up to", I then told him the issues and the possible legal consequences for Kopatich and the city.

My intent had always been to get the information from Kopatich so I could work with him to get him qualified so he would be in compliance, but all I kept getting was the runaround from him and council members. Brian Docker would not

listen to anything I had to say but just kept saying he didn't want to be involved in a "witch hunt". If any one of you had taken the time to listen to what I had to say and allow me to show you the information I had this could have all been avoided. I was trying to help Kopatich, I wanted him to succeed, for the sake of the city and out of respect for a fellow officer. But what I will NOT do is lie or break the law or knowingly help someone else break the law.

After I spoke with the mayor and told him that Kopatich was facing some legal charges he must have called Kopatich himself and told him of our conversation because the next thing I knew is Kopatich had suddenly decided to "retire".

The way I found out about this sudden retirement was Bernie Peeters emailed me asking if we still needed to have the meeting, I asked him why was there something he knew that I didn't? He replied by telling me of Kopatichs resignation. This information was submitted to only Peeters, Dockery, Blackwell and the mayor, somehow Frank King, Lisa Kotter and I were all left out of this important email.

Lisa Kotter had nothing to do with it, it was me and Kopatich period. Dave chose to leave, no one forced him out, he had options but he chose to ignore those options and take the easy way out.