



MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"Integrity and Professionalism-
Our Foundation For Service"*

www.morgansheriff.net

Dave Martin, Sheriff
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Town of Log Lane village
109 Maine Street
Log Lane Village 80705
Attention: Mayor Robin Mastin

October 23, 2020

Mayor Mastin,

I hope that this letter finds you well. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a couple of issues regarding Log Lane Police Department Chief Joshua Katz.

Last weekend, deputies from my office became involved with Chief Katz at his residence while responding to some sort of a family dispute. It is reported that Joshua Katz had been consuming alcohol and that at some point during this dispute, Chief Katz made suicidal statements about shooting himself in the head. Chief Katz stated to a member of my command staff over the telephone that he had held a gun to his own head.

Chief Katz was ultimately transported to my office where he met with members of Centennial Mental Health. Ultimately, Chief Katz was released to go back home. His firearms were removed from his residence by fellow Log Lane Officer Lund. Joshua Katz was not determined to be in imminent danger to himself or others. His blood alcohol level was .028 BRAC, not even impaired by Colorado Revised Statutes standard.

Since this incident, I know that the District Attorneys' Office has begun an investigation into the dispute issue to determine if there was anything that could be criminal in nature. To my knowledge, this decision has not been reached.

I have personally met with Chief Katz and have given him information for counseling services that specialize in treating first responders.

Since my meeting with Chief Katz, I have been made aware of another incident in the town of Log Lane Village where Chief Katz made a traffic stop and the vehicle failed to yield. I don't know all of the details of this stop and do not want to "Monday morning quarter back" Chief Katz's decision to pull his weapon and point it at the driver.

However, what does concern me is that during this stop, the driver was apparently ordered to get out of the car and to get down on his knees. The driver reportedly did get out of the car but did not immediately comply by getting down on his knees.

It was at this time, that Chief Katz told a cover officer from the Fort Morgan Police Department that he was going to release his K-9 if the driver continued to not get down on his knees. I can tell you that as a 35 year law enforcement officer and a former K-9 handler, that in my mind, this would not have been an appropriate use of force.

It is apparent that Chief Katz is not making sound decisions in his personal life as well as a police officer for your agency.

This letter is not written out of spite for Chief Katz but out of an abundance of caution for your town and any other law enforcement officers called to assist.

The new Senate Bill 20-217 requires a law enforcement officer to intervene and report what they believe to be excessive use of force. The case that I am speaking of did not reach that level of force, but certainly could have.

I have neither the desire nor the resources to take over law enforcement duties for your town. Please don't misunderstand the purpose of this letter. It is solely to make you aware of issues that have been brought to my attention.

I believe that it would be prudent for the Town of Log Lane to review these issues with your attorney and maybe even your counsel.

Chief Katz's decision making has made me, my staff and other law enforcement officers leery of assisting or becoming involved in cases with your police department.

Respectfully,



Dave Martin,
Sheriff



A PEACEFUL VILLAGE COMMUNITY
109 Maine Street, Log Lane Village, CO 80705
(970) 867-8027

November 10 2020

To whom it may concern,

Over the weekend Chief Marshal Katz had an event that I can sum up from what was said. I feel like this is an important event to notate as it could serve as a reminder of situation/outcome to be. Coming into work I receive a call from the Mayor about Josh. Robin had said that things got out of hand out at Josh's place and that cops were called. On Saturday night there was a baby shower that Katz, his wife Syd, Shawn Greenwell, his wife Beth, Mayor Mastin, Mike Fisher and other baby shower attendees. There had been lots of drinking and Syd Josh's wife had left out of jealousy. Apparently, Josh had been with the mother to be during his last term of service prior to being rehired. Syd was uncomfortable and thought Josh had been flirting with other attendees. Mike took off to find Syd and Josh had stayed. After Josh got home, (and I am unclear how long he stayed or if it was right away) there was an altercation at Josh's house. Robin had said somethings were obviously thrown as glass had been all over the floor. Josh went to robin's crying. She had said if you guys knew each other better you might not be in the situation. Prior to Josh going to Robin's, he had put a gun to his head. I do not know what was said prior or the action that caused him to grab his gun but Robin said Josh had said "Would it make you happy if I kill myself" "Should I just shoot myself?". At some point officer Seth Lund their neighbor had called Morgan County Sheriff out for domestic disturbance. Robin had said Seth was pulling his hair as if to be shocked and said "I don't know what to do, what do I do?" Robin had told him to calm the fuck down. By that time the Morgan County Sheriff had showed up to speak with Josh. They did take him to Centennial Mental health to check his psych. He cleared and was returned home. I did not talk to Josh about the situation. I received a certified letter from Dave Martin the Sheriff of Morgan County. This letter summarized the incident, his opinion on a incident of excessive force, a matter as well as the professionalism of Chief Katz and his position with the town. This letter is to serve as a reminder of prior events shall the need arise.

Regards,

Elizabeth Heisel
Town Clerk
Town of Log Lane Village

(970) 867-8027

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