



Committee for Public Counsel Services

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CHIEF COUNSEL

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Chief Robert F. Rufo, Jr.
Woburn Police Department
10 Common Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Dear Chief Rufo,

It takes a lot to shock a public defender, but when we read about former Woburn Police Officer John Donnelly's principal participation in the deadly 2017 Charlottesville "Unite the Right" Rally, it caused a wave of disgust that continues to reverberate throughout our entire agency.

Our clients and their communities have been victimized and traumatized by the knowledge that they have been subjected to a law enforcement officer who endorses and actively promotes a bigoted ideology. We are going to do everything we can to dig into his cases, and we will make sure they are scrutinized with an eye toward dismissal.

If, as media outlets reported, Officer Donnelly frequently posted hateful rhetoric online and was sporting controversial clothing in public, certainly, there were and are others in your ranks who were aware of his system of beliefs. We demand to know what steps have been taken or will be taken to determine whether other officers have also breached the trust of the Woburn Police Department and, more importantly, the community.

The Woburn Police Department's values statement touts a call for maintaining "the highest standards of integrity and ethics" and protecting "the constitutional rights of all citizens." It is never too late to operate a department that is genuinely intentional about living those values.

This situation requires full transparency from the Woburn Police Department, and we look forward to working with District Attorney Marian Ryan as she conducts her investigation. As put forth in the attached records request, we are seeking all information in your possession involving former Police Officer John Donnelly.

It is our belief that every single case Officer Donnelly has ever touched, in his seven years of apparent disservice to the Woburn Police Department, should be dismissed. The information you possess will help us in this campaign, and we ask that you make this records request a top priority.

Sincerely,



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