

Chief Deputy Vandewalker,

I am drafting this email to make a formal complaint with Howard County on how my administrative leave information is being disseminated to the public. My complaint is not that the fact I am on administrative leave was released, but that someone within the Office or other Howard County Officials leaked unauthorized information to the public. I had been contacted by citizens of this on Saturday October 26th even before it was released to the press and shortly after being served my administrative leave. It was relayed to me that I had been fired and accused of theft. It is my belief someone with close knowledge of this matter in our Office had contacted the public and released private and defamatory information to the public. This has damaged my reputation and I believe has also violated my due process.

This morning I was contacted by the press with more requesting information about myself and my campaign. I am forwarding this email separately for review. The basis of the email is that I have used company resources for campaign usage. I believe this has been released by someone in our Office or by another Howard County Official and has violated my privacy and due process. I am also being asked why I suspended my campaign and why I have resigned from the Sheriff's Office. Neither of which are true and believe that this has been a direct result of a leak of information from Office employees or Howard County Officials.

My statement is I have not initiated any conversation with the press or the public in regards to this internal matter.

I am also filing a formal complaint against Howard County for a meeting that took place on October 9th. I was called into this meeting by my department head. Other department heads were also present including Howard County Attorney Kevin Schoeberl and Howard County Auditor Julie Chapman. This meeting took place at the Howard County Sheriff's Office while I was on duty. This meeting consisted of a private citizen, my political opponent, being allowed into my place of employment and on duty to level personal grievances against me and my campaign. This was not a work related issue and I felt intimidated, alarmed, and emotionally distressed. This meeting also put me in a position of possibly having campaigned on duty and while on government property.

I am requesting an investigation into these two matters.

Respectfully,

Richard Hollenbeck