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a private civil rights and special education firm

March 10, 2021

VIA EMAIL and U.S.P.S.

Jim Matherly
Office of the Mayor
800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: Detective Avery Thompson

Dear Mayor Matherly:

This law firm represents one of the most highly decorated and respected officers with the Fairbanks Police Department, Detective Avery Thompson. Detective Thompson committed the cardinal sin of crossing the thin blue line and reported misconduct within the Fairbanks Police Department. As a result, Detective Thompson has been subjected to a non-stop campaign of harassment by the Fairbanks Police Department.

Instead of properly addressing the misconduct by the Fairbanks Police Department, you appear to have joined it: you suspended Detective Thompson on March 8 because he told the truth. Or, as you put it in your suspension notice, Detective Thompson is now under "investigation" for telling the truth.

Corruption and misconduct in a police department harms all of us. When politicians aid and abet police misconduct it exacerbates the problem.

The City of Sitka had a dysfunctional police department that countenanced sexism, racism and retaliation against whistleblowers. The upshot of that is that the City of Sitka was sued repeatedly by this law firm and paid almost one million dollars to the officers we represented. The City of Fairbanks can now look forward to something similar.

Your suspension of Detective Thompson is illegal and your wrongful suspension is now going to subject the City of Fairbanks to a large lawsuit, which you will lose.

If you want to minimize the City's liability, you need to reinstate Detective Thompson immediately and issue him a written apology. If you do not have a lawyer, you should retain one immediately.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Davis, Jr." in a cursive script.

James J. Davis, Jr.

cc: Detective Thompson; Fairbanks Daily News Miner; Alaska Public Radio; Anchorage Daily News; Pro Publica; Jill Burke, KTUU; KUAC-University of Alaska Radio and Broadcast, gretchen.kuac@alaska.edu; Channel 11 News, KTVF-TVNews@gray.tv; Shoshana Kun, skun@fairbanks.us; June Rogers, jrogers@fairbanks.us, Valerie Therrien, vtherrien@fairbanks.us, Aaron Gibson, agibson@fairbanks.us; Lonny Marney, lmarney@fairbanks.us; Jim Clark, jclark@fairbanks.us