



CITY ADMINISTRATION
Kyle Michel, MPA
City Administrator
101 W. Broadway
Ashland, MO 65010

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 11/14/2023

Callaway County Prosecutors Office Declining Charges Against Chief Gabriel Edwards

Ashland, MO- The City is aware of and in receipt of a memo from Benjamin Miller, Prosecuting Attorney, Callaway County, stating that the charges will be declined against Chief Edwards at this time. The memo further states that Mr. Miller, upon review of investigative reports from Missouri State Highway Patrol, believes that Chief Edwards has committed a crime. Mr. Miller requested a probable cause statement from the Highway Patrol on October 4th. As of the date of Mr. Miller's memo, the Highway Patrol has failed to provide a probable cause statement. Without such a statement, Mr. Miller is unable to move forward with filing charges.

It is most concerning that the Highway Patrol has failed to produce a probable cause statement as requested by Mr. Miller. This statement from Mr. Miller would appear to indicate that a crime has been committed and that the Highway Patrol reached that conclusion as part of their investigation into Chief Edwards. This unusual delay by the Highway Patrol further extends the amount of time that has been invested in this ongoing personnel matter which ultimately further burdens the residents of the City of Ashland. The Board of Aldermen will review this memo with the City Attorney under closed session on November 21st. Any action taken by the Board resulting from closed session discussions will be reported upon returning to open session on the 21st.

The City again would like to apologize to the public for the length of time required to investigate this matter. Personnel matters involving chiefs of police are delicate matters that are regulated by State Statute. These personnel matters are not simple and cannot be rushed. We would like to extend our gratitude to the public for being patient with the process. Rest assured that the Board will continue to take action as necessary to protect the City's interests and address this matter as required by law.

All questions can be directed to City Administrator Kyle Michel, kmichel@ashlandmo.us / 573-657-2091, or the City Attorney Todd Smith, tsmith@laubermunicipal.com / 573-352-4563.