



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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 10/26/2023

Lawsuit Filed Against the City of Ashland by Gabriel Edwards

Ashland, MO- The City is aware of and in receipt of a lawsuit filed by Gabriel Edwards, Chief of Police, against the City of Ashland, Missouri. The lawsuit alleges that Chief Edwards has been removed from his position as Chief of Police and was removed in violation of Missouri Statute. Chief Edwards has not been removed from his position as Chief of Police.

Chief Edwards was placed on a paid leave of absence on July 17th, 2023 in accordance with City policy. Edwards was placed on leave due to the nature and severity of grievances brought against the Chief. Being placed on leave does not constitute a removal, the Chief remains a salaried employee of the City. As previously stated, Edwards will remain on paid administrative leave until such time as the investigation into these grievances has concluded. As the City Administrator, I am charged with the management and direction of all employees. I have directed the Chief to remove himself from all City properties and remain on a paid administrative leave until directed otherwise.

The City would like to apologize to our residents for the amount of time required to investigate these grievances. The grievances are serious in nature and for the protection of both the City and our residents, the City requested an outside investigation to ensure an impartial and thorough investigation.

The City remains hopeful that the investigation will conclude shortly so that we can move forward accordingly. While the majority of the alleged grievances occurred in the past, we want our residents to be confident that we are taking them seriously and are handling the matter in accordance with required laws.

As this still remains a personnel matter in addition to being the subject of a lawsuit, no further details regarding this matter will be released.

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.