

First Selectman

From: Katherine Paquette <kpaquette21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 8:18 AM
To: First Selectman; Denise Turner; Deborah Bates; Rosemary Coyle; Jason LaChapelle
Subject: OSHA and criminology

Please include this email in next meeting packet

Dear Board of Selectmen

Hoping you are well and have had time to enjoy the New England summer.

Before beginning, please know that I have a profound appreciation of laws and those who enforce them. This letter is being written at the recommendation of Scott Kennedy, from Federal OSHA Records Division Department in Boston, as I have not heard back from Fire Chief Steve Hoffman.

In response to your previous BoS meeting with Fire Chief Hoffman, regarding OSHA trainings and compliance, I reached out to State and Federal OSHA offices in Connecticut, Washington, and Boston, as well as our Colchester Fire Department.

I have since learned that no OSHA violations involving Jeffrey Earl Grant (D.O.B 1985) have ever been submitted.

On June 22, 2023, I spoke with a Colchester Fire Department staff member who indicated words to the effect: "our department has never filed an OSHA report. It's beyond our scope and jurisdiction! If we did that, no one would contact us, they would drive themselves to the hospital."

After recounting this feedback to Scott Kennedy at Federal OSHA Records in Boston, he proceeded ask me what kind of town I live in and then indicated that the aforementioned statement regarding collaboration by emergency responders with OSHA was ludicrous, as he has often received police and fire department referrals. The window to make an OSHA referral is 6 months. Our state, federal, Town emergency teams do not appear to be working in tandem, so this is also why I'm reaching out. For example, you will not be able to discern that Grant has had at least 9 preexisting cases with Department of Consumer Protection, he has had his Home Improvement Contractor License revoked, as well as recent complaints on BBB, if you scroll through his Judicial civil case records. You additionally will not be able to discern that he has had at least 2 employees injured while working with him.

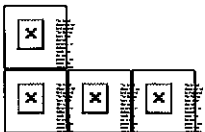
To sum, please convey to town emergency teams to collaborate with other agencies who can enforce consequences.

Turning a blind on this kind of egregious misconduct enables it to continue.

The last thing I said to that Colchester Fire Department staff member was that people need to feel safe in our town. I sensed that she wasn't really listening because she kept looking out the window, then said she had to get some sheetrock. I hope you're listening because I feel like I've got a pretty big target on my back for speaking out but it's too important to me that this please stop happening to people, or at the very least, that we try to work more collaboratively and we record it more fully when it does.

Thank you for your time and energy.

Respectfully,
Katherine Paquette
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Colchester, CT



Sent from my iPhone