

# Hingham Fire And Police Chiefs Agree To Remove “Political” Thin Blue Line Flag From Fire Truck After College Student Writes Email Complaining That He’s Offended

[tbdailynews.com/hingham-fire-and-police-chiefs-agree-to-remove-political-thin-blue-line-flag-from-fire-truck-after-college-student-writes-email-complaining-that-hes-offended](https://tbdailynews.com/hingham-fire-and-police-chiefs-agree-to-remove-political-thin-blue-line-flag-from-fire-truck-after-college-student-writes-email-complaining-that-hes-offended)

July 24, 2020



This is Max Giarrusso from Hingham.



Max is a student at Denison University in Ohio, and the make him feel special by **letting him be on the track team.**

**His times are so slow** that he wouldn’t have made the varsity team at Shepherd Hill Regional High School when I was coaching there.

Max was driving through Hingham recently when he saw this fire truck.



- FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS
  - FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
  - 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
- [www.ellisfire.com](http://www.ellisfire.com)



You'll notice the thin blue line flag on the truck, which commemorates police officers who died in the line of duty. Hingham borders Weymouth, the city where Sgt. Michael Chesna was murdered by an unarmed person of color two years ago. To honor his sacrifice on the anniversary of that horrific event this is what HFD does.

This evidently upset Max Giarrusso who wrote an email to the Board of Selectmen to complain that it was racist.

**From:** Max Giarrusso

[<giarru\\_m1@denison.edu>](mailto:giarru_m1@denison.edu)

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:27 PM

**To:** Power, Mary; Fisher, Joe; Ramsey, William

**Subject:** Hingham Fire Department "Thin Blue Line" Flag

Good afternoon Selectmen,

My name is Max Giarrusso, a life-long resident of Hingham and senior at Denison University out in Ohio. Yesterday, while I was driving down Lincoln Street I passed a fire truck that was proudly flying a Blue Lives Matter, thin blue line flag from the rear.

Unfortunately, I did not have time to verify that it was a Hingham Fire Department vehicle, or from another town.

The thin blue line flag has undoubtedly become a political symbol, most often used to counter Black Lives Matter and the fight against rampant police brutality.

While Hingham is blessed with a remarkable police force and these problems may not be

---

police force and these problems may not be as relevant to our quiet little town, the symbols are still representative of issues that our country is confronting as a whole.

This fire truck is a vehicle owned by the town for the purpose of keeping Hingham's citizens safe. I do not think it would be appropriate by any means for a public safety vehicle to don such a politically charged flag in place of the American Flag. Given that you all decided it would be inappropriate to fly a rainbow flag on town property- a flag that represents inclusivity of all- I was shocked to see the thin blue line being flown on town property. **To many and to you, the thin blue line may represent support for our first responders; However, it is undeniable that to many it is representative of the fight against Black Lives Matter.** It is not a matter of intentions, it is a matter of consequences.

---

I urge you all to investigate whether or not the fire truck that flew this flag was from Hingham, and if so, to **call for the immediate removal of the thin blue line flag** from the vehicle, and all other town owned property.

I would be more than glad to continue this conversation with some or all of you. Please feel free to reach out to me by email or phone ([781-724-9854](tel:781-724-9854)). I imagine your plates are very full given the many challenges our community is facing during this unprecedented global pandemic, so I appreciate you taking the time to hear my concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Max Giarrusso

--

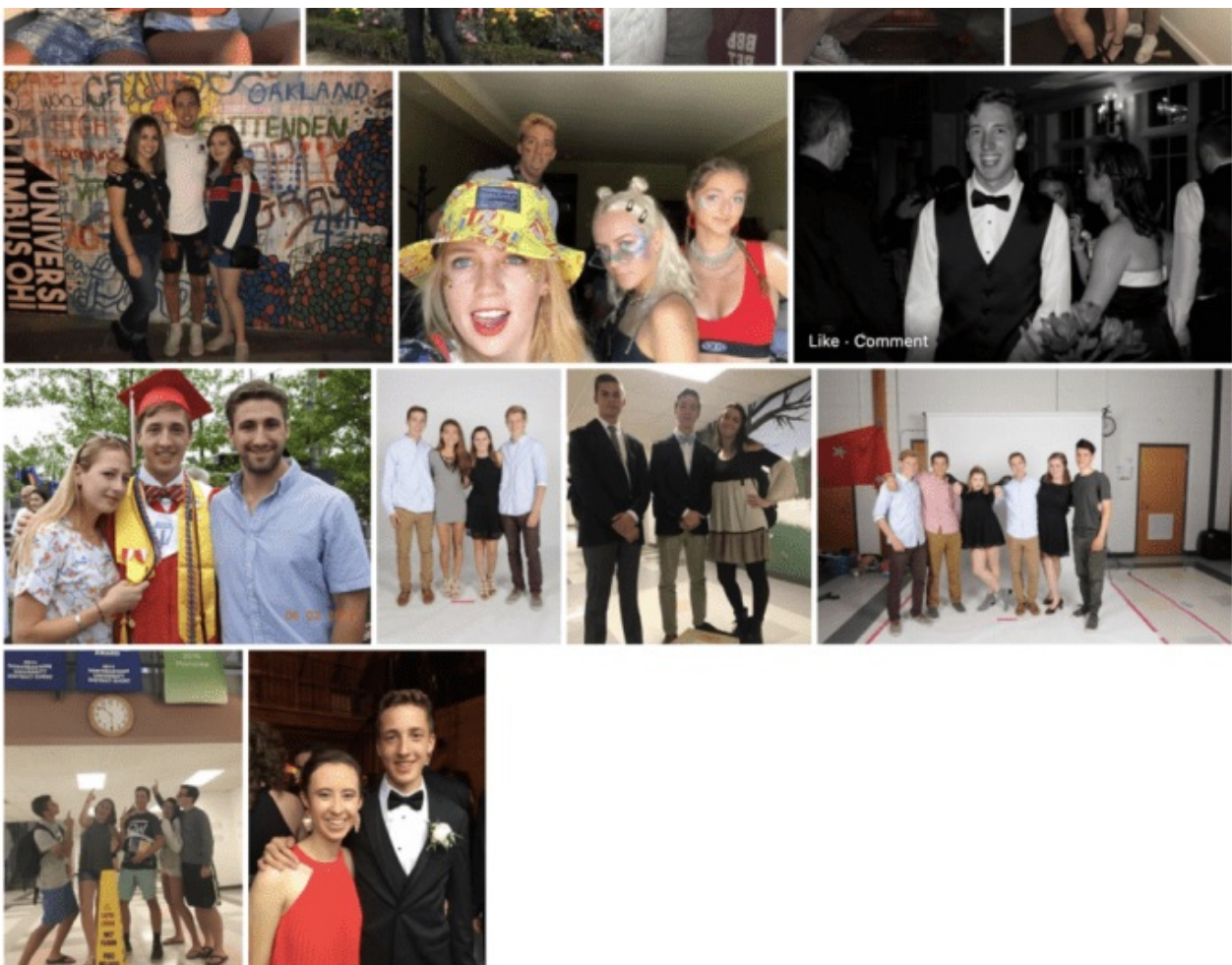
**Maxwell M. Giarrusso**

Cell: [+1 \(781\) 724-9854](tel:+17817249854)

**Denison University:** *Communication, French, and Economics*

Max Giarrusso is cancer for the following reasons:

1. He lists his majors in his email bio.
2. One of those majors is French.
3. He's living in one of the whitest and wealthiest towns in Massachusetts, every single person in his Facebook pictures is white, and he still thinks he's the voice for offended black people who he patronizes by assuming they are so weak and fragile that this flag will upset them.
4. The thin blue line has always been to honor murdered police officers. It doesn't matter what you think it's "become." You don't get to change the definition of a flag because you've suddenly decided that it's hateful.
5. There is nothing political about supporting murdered cops like Michael Chesna, and you have to be psychotic to reach that conclusion.
6. He doesn't pay taxes, he knows nothing about the world, and therefore he has no right to demand anything. I actually demand you shut up and go back to getting friend zoned by every girls he's ever spoken to.





The Board of Selectmen could've easily just ignored this email. Instead, Selectmen Joe Fisher, who probably just figured out how to use the Internet, emailed Fire Chief Steve Murphy and asked for a follow up.

---

Facebook photos of other fire departments displaying them on their engines. How do you want me to proceed? I can ask Lou (who is working today) to look and see for himself and see if they are on the engines.

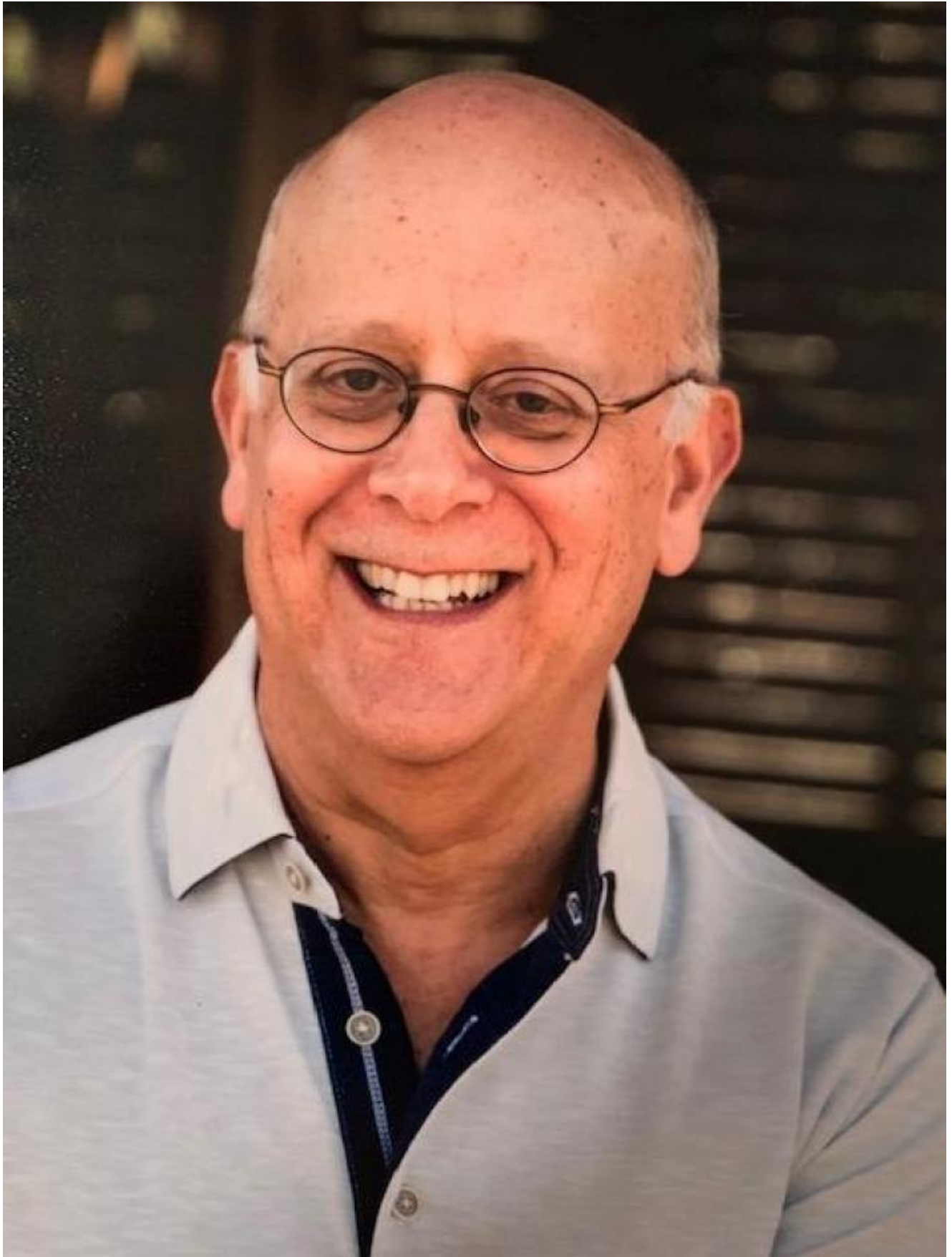
Thanks,  
Steve

**From:** Fisher, Joe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Steve <[murphys@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:murphys@hingham-ma.gov)>  
**Cc:** Selectmen <[SelectmenEmail@hingham-ma.gov](mailto>SelectmenEmail@hingham-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Hingham Fire Department "Thin Blue Line" Flag

Steve,  
Have you seen this email? Please follow up with me.  
Thanks.

Joe





Rather than standing up for Sgt. Chesna's honor Chief Murphy asked Town Administrator Tom Mayo and Police Chief Glenn Olsson how they wanted to proceed, because apparently he's too much of a coward to stand up for his brothers in blue.

---

**From:** Murphy, Steve  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** Mayo, Thomas <[mayot@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:mayot@hingham-ma.gov)>;  
Olsson, Glenn <[OlssonG@hpd.org](mailto:OlssonG@hpd.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Hingham Fire Department "Thin Blue Line" Flag

Hello,

Please read Joe's email below first. I wanted to check with you both before I respond to him.

---

I am not positive, but it would not surprise me if one or more of our fire engines has a thin blue line flag. I know the guys purchased these after Sgt. Chesna was killed in Weymouth. They have not been on since then, but I have seen Facebook photos of other fire departments displaying them on their engines. How do you want me to proceed? I can ask Lou (who is working today) to look and see for himself and see if they are on the engines.

Thanks,  
Steve



At this point Police Chief Glenn Olsson could've stood up for his officers and squashed it. Instead he agreed that the flag was political, said it should be removed, and stated his

belief that a 19 year old's ridiculous email should be seriously considered.

---

**From:** Olsson, Glenn

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:52 PM

**To:** Murphy, Steve <[murphys@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:murphys@hingham-ma.gov)>; Mayo, Thomas <[mayot@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:mayot@hingham-ma.gov)>

**Cc:** Jones, David <[JonesD@hpd.org](mailto:JonesD@hpd.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Hingham Fire Department "Thin Blue Line" Flag

Hi Everyone ,

The Light Department has recently gone through a similar list of complaints regarding black lives matter material on telephone poles and also thin Blue lives flags on telephone poles .

The light Department , Verizon or National Grid own the poles and no one has the right to post anything on them . Political items were removed from the poles. The did allow school material to say.

We are now entering a world where the town need to tread carefully on what we support and display . It is of my opinion we must stay above

---

display . It is of my opinion we must stay above the fray and not allow town property to display any political or other signage that denote or choses one group over another .

It quite obvious that Giarrusso has a certain point of view and he has chosen to make assumptions and has used expressive language choices to emphasize his point of view .

I understand and I am thankful that from time to time during tragedies that department show support in incident such as the murder of Sgt. Chessna.

Those display should have a time frame for removal .

I would remove any material on all town owned property that shows favor to one group or another. I would remove the sticker or flag from any engines or other vehicles or property.

I would also include material posted by athletic clubs. Main street looks horrible with the signage that are worn out and have grown to three or 4

---

that are worn out and have grown to three or 4 groups . The town has to assign and pay people to remove them .

F we allow exceptions we run into these issues.

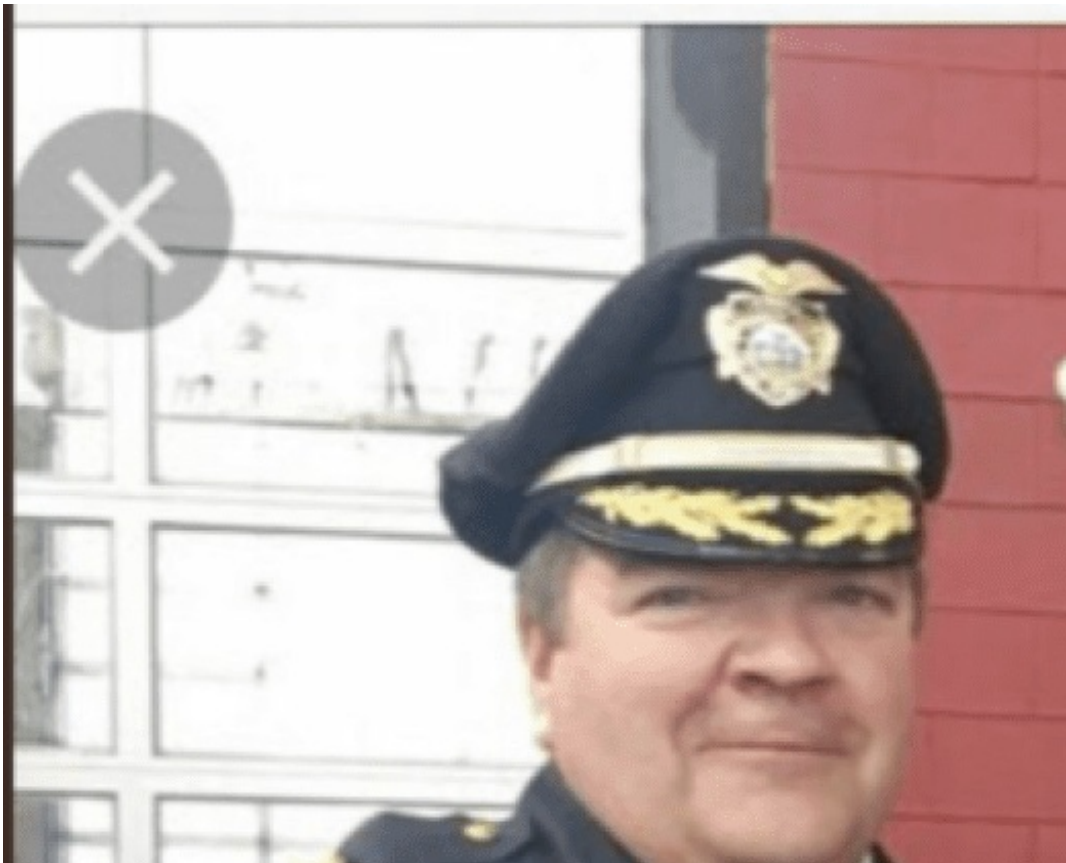
Thank You,

Chief

Imagine being a cop and working for such a worthless bloated bag of garbage? Just look at this disgusting slob.











Police chiefs are just as bad as politicians because they basically are politicians. They get appointed by politicians and they have to please them to keep their jobs. They're not real cops and we shouldn't respect them like we do real cops, unless they go out of their way to support their officers like Cheryl Clapprood in Springfield or Willie Gross in Boston. Just ask the Webster Chief who **emasculated himself** by lying face down with his hands behind his back to appease a mob.

These emails were not supposed to be leaked but one of the morons hit a forward button by accident and now we have them. The only thing that's been released publicly so far was this joint statement from the two gutless chiefs.



## HINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

339 MAIN STREET  
HINGHAM, MA 02043-2824

(781) 741-1480 BUSINESS OFFICE      ADMINISTRATION (781) 741-1416  
(781) 741-1488 FIRE PREVENTION      FAX (781) 741-1483

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**To:** All Personnel

**From:** Chief Steve Murphy & Chief Glenn Olsson

**RE:** **Displaying political material on public buildings and equipment.**

Recently, a resident complained that one of our fire engines is displaying the "Thin-Blue-Line" flag. We understand that these flags were purchased to show support for the police after the murder of Weymouth Sergeant Chesna. We condone displaying the flag for that purpose and thank the members of the Hingham Fire Department for showing their respect for their public safety co-workers.

Over the last few weeks, the "Thin-Blue-Line" flags have taken a different political meaning, which might be offensive to some. The Town of Hingham has a long-standing policy that forbids displaying any political messaging, whether it is a candidate's bumper sticker, literature, sign, or flag on Town property. The flags on the engines, therefore, are a violation of this policy and will need to be removed. We have always shared a great working relationship with the police department, and they don't need a sticker, or flag, to realize that we have each other's back during troubling times.

Thanks,

Steve Murphy  
Fire Chief

Glenn Olsson  
Police Chief

“A resident complained.”

Singular. Bob Murchison would be impressed. It’s amazing what one person with a gmail account can accomplish in the age of cancel culture.

“The thin blue line flag has taken a different political meaning, which might be offensive to some.”

Who cares what some SJW looking for a cause to advocate for suddenly finds offensive? Stop pandering to people like this and start standing up to them instead. They only have power if you give it to them.

Local businessman Dan Nardo, who unlike Max Giarrusso pays taxes, wrote an email to both chiefs expressing his concerns.

---

**Nardo, Daniel J.**

---

**From:** Nardo, Daniel J.  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 7:40 PM  
**To:** Olsson, Glenn; murphys@hingham-ma.gov  
**Cc:** powerm@hingham-ma.gov, fisherj@hingham-ma.gov, ramseyw@hingham-ma.gov  
**Subject:** URGENT: Thin Blue Line

**Importance:** High

Dear Chief Murphy and Chief Olsson:

After reading the memo you sent to fire department personnel today, I must say that I am incredibly disappointed in the lack of support for the men and women of the Hingham Police Department and law enforcement agencies across the nation. Ordering the removal of Thin Blue Line flags or insignia from fire department vehicles displays an aggressive opposition to the fellowship of police officers, the duties of law enforcement, and disrespect to the courage and ultimate sacrifice made by far too many.

Your memo says, "[that] the "Thin Blue Line" flags have taken a different political meaning, which might be offensive to some." This statement is simply untrue. Since the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the meaning of the Thin Blue Line has been the same – to symbolize the esprit de corps of law enforcement, the courage, and commitment of officers, and to represent the barrier between the law-abiding citizens of America and the criminally inclined. Just as the American flag pays tribute to the American people and our nation's sacrifices to gain independence, the Thin Blue Line, in any form, symbolizes support for law enforcement and pays homage to fallen officers.

The Thin Blue Line is not a political symbol and is not associated with any political group or message. The Thin Blue Line is a representation of the institution of law enforcement and the commitment to upholding the law. The Thin Blue Line is akin to the fire service's Thin Red Line and bugles, the Caduceus symbol of medicine, and scales of justice in law. Thin Blue and Red Line mourning bands have been worn by police officers and firefighters, by the tens-of-thousands, at comrade funerals across our nation – including the funerals of WPD SGT Chesna, YPD SGT Shawn Gannon, and MIT OFF Sean Collier, as a show of respect, honor, and commitment. These same mourning bands were worn at the funerals of the Worcester 6, BFD LT Walsh, and BFD FF Kennedy.

The hard discussion neither of you wants to have is, this:

The "Black Lives Matter" movement is at full-on war with its "Blue Lives Matter" countermovement, but the "Blue Lives Matter" movement of 2020 has no affiliation with the meaning of the Thin Blue Line and its symbology which dates back to the early 1900s. The only connection between the Thin Blue Line and "Blue Lives Matter" is the color blue and its association with the police.

The political matter here is your order to remove Thin Blue Line flags from the fire apparatus. Your order publicly and purposely supports the mission of the "Black Lives Matter" political movement, and in effect, is a political message, which is a severe violation of long-standing Town policy.

Since your memo and order are politically motivated and violate Town policy, I respectfully request you immediately rescind the memo and the order. Furthermore, since the Thin Blue Line flags displayed on the Hingham Fire apparatus were an honorable display of support to law enforcement and respect to fallen officers, with no political affiliation, and are not in violation of Town policy – I respectfully request you immediately display the flags in their previous fashion.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Please let me know when the memo and order have been rescinded, and the flags are displayed.

Chief Olsson insisted that he was only asking for the flag to be removed because it was political.

Dear Mr. Nardo ,

I appreciate your letter and your concern. I do not agree with your analysis but I respect your right to voice it .

This issue is solely about following a policy of the not displaying items that are political in nature by a large number of people.

We appreciate the support that Fire Department personnel share for their fellow Police Officers and I confident that was the sole purpose during this stressful period of covid and social issues.

Respectfully ,  
Chief Glenn Olsson

...

Except it's not political to honor the lives of Ron Tarentino, Sean Collier, Sean Gannon, and Michael Chesna. And the fact that a police chief won't advocate for his officers is disgraceful and grounds for dismissal. The firefighters union came out and immediately condemned the action.



## Hingham Firefighters Local 2398

49m ·

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Men and Women of Hingham Firefighters Local 2398 proudly support our brothers and sisters in blue. Our members recently displayed this support in the form of flying the "Thin Blue Line" American Flag on our fire apparatus. The flags were recently put on the apparatus leading



Flags were recently put on the apparatus leading up to the anniversary of the senseless murder of officer Michael Chesna in our neighboring community of Weymouth. We continued to fly the flags after the anniversary in support of the law enforcement officers in our own community, as well as all law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day. At NO TIME, was this meant to be a political statement in any way. Nor was it an attempt to show support for, or against, any specific political party or advocacy group. A complaint was made to the town in reference to the flags and it was determined that flying the flags on the apparatus was a violation of a town policy. While the members of Local 2398 are not pleased with the decision to remove the flags, we will continue our unwavering support for all the men and women of law enforcement who bravely protect their communities day in and day out. We will always Back The Blue.

Which prompted a reply email from Nardo.

**Nardo, Daniel J.**

---

**From:** Nardo, Daniel J.  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:18 PM  
**To:** 'Olsson, Glenn'; 'Murphy, Steve'  
**Cc:** 'Power, Mary'; 'Fisher, Joe'; 'Ramsey, William'; 'mayot@hingham-ma.gov'; 'monsegurm@hingham-ma.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Thin Blue Line

Chief:

Thank you for the quick response. Whether or not you agree with my analysis or not is immaterial; you have made this a matter of policy. The Town's policy expressly forbids the display of political messaging on Town property, both real and physical. The Thin Blue Line is not political.

What political message, organization, or group are you claiming the Thin Blue Line is associated with?

How is the fire apparatus flying a Thin Blue Line Flag any different from the photo of you on Facebook saluting an "Honor and Sacrifice" flag on National Peace Officer's Memorial Day? Both are displayed on Town property, and both support the police.

Nevertheless, you and Chief Murphy are not the adjudicating authority on Town policy. I will be calling for Tom Mayo and the Board of Selectman to have Town Counsel review your memo and order as it relates to Town policy. I will be encouraging both the police and fire department unions to do the same and will offer my professional services to both free of charge.

I am surprised to see you say "we" in your email; when you know your entire department is in an uproar and deeply disturbed by the memo, you signed. Local chiefs are questioning your "unstable behavior," as one put it, and regional police union presidents are contacting you condemning your "reference[ing] a fellow police officer murdered in the line of duty..." and calling for "respect alone for the [officer] and his family." Both HPD and HFD members are very public about their outrage over this matter.

Glenn, you and I have known each other for a long time. You have always been quick to act and side with anyone claiming "victim" – this is not the time. Please consider the impact this memo and order (which are inconsistent with Town policy and a disgrace to the profession) are having on your department.

I will be reaching out to Mr. Mayo and the Board first thing tomorrow.

D.

The chiefs are effectively giving into the demands of one non-taxpaying malcontent with a school email account, and ignoring the protestations of the firefighters unions and every single member of the Hingham PD, many of who reached out to us to voice their disgust. And since random people get to make demands on town policy, I hereby demand that both Chief Murphy and Chief Olsson resign immediately. They are not worthy to lead anymore and clearly lack leadership qualities.

Please consider supporting local journalism by donating to the Turtle fund:

*Hello Turtle Riders. As you know if you follow Turtleboy we are constantly getting censored and banned by Facebook for what are **clearly not violations of their terms of service**. Twitter has done the same, and trolls mass reported our blog to Google AdSense thousands of times, leading to demonitization. We can get by and survive, but we could really use your help. Please consider donating by hitting the PayPal button above if you'd like support free speech and what we do in the face of Silicon Valley censorship. Or just buy our award winning book about the dangers of censorship and rise of Turtleboy:*