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April 11, 2022

VIA E-MAIL

Tracy Shriver, Esq.  
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**In re: Trooper Zachary Gauthier**

Dear Colleagues,

My office is presently conducting a conflict review of a Vermont State Police investigation into Trooper Zachary Gauthier. Investigation remains underway, however, there is sufficient credible evidence disclosed in Docket No. 22-FA-00341 to warrant immediate actions by your office consistent with the constitutional and ethical requirements, including V.R.Cr.P. 16(a)(2)(G) and (b)(2), as well as V.Prof.Cond.R. 3.8(d).

A final order for relief from abuse was issued in Docker No. 22-FA-0341 on or about February 24, 2022. In issuing such order, the court found that Trooper Gauthier (1) placed family/household members in fear of imminent bodily harm, and (2) that there was danger of further abuse.

Specifically, the following information pertaining to potential criminal acts or instances of untruthful statements were disclosed by Trooper Gauthier's spouse, J.G. while she was under oath:

a. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b. An allegation of cruelty to an animal occurring in December 2021, during which J.G. testified that Trooper Gauthier punched the head of a canine so hard that


he broke his knuckles. J.G. stated that Trooper Gauthier disclosed lying to the treating staff at the hospital, citing a slip and fall as the cause of injury;

c. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

During the course of the hearing, Trooper Gauthier testified, during which he substantially rebutted or disagreed with the characterization of events by J.G. However, my office has been informed as part of the ongoing criminal investigation that Trooper Gauthier disclosed to Detective Sergeant Michael Notte information inconsistent with his sworn testimony, specifically, concerning whether alcohol was present in his vehicle during the October 2021 incident, and the injury to his hand resulting from the incident with the canine in December 2021.

Accordingly, these inconsistencies and/or admissions of providing false statements necessitate appropriate disclosures in pending matters and review of whether to proceed on such matters given the significant credibility and trustworthiness issues raised. At this time, my office is awaiting a full report from the Vermont State Police to make any further recommendations or charging decisions. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,  
  
Rory T. Thibault  
State's Attorney