



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Richmond Police Chief's Sentence Vacated, Judge Recuses Himself

Mount Clemens, MI - Late this afternoon, Richmond Police Chief Thomas Costello's early morning sentence in New Baltimore District Court was vacated by the New Baltimore District Court Judge William Hackel III after an emergency hearing, requested by defense counsel.

It is alleged that on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, Richmond Police Chief Thomas Costello intentionally used LEIN (Michigan's computer network for law enforcement officers) to retrieve non-public information without probable cause.

Chief Costello was charged and pleaded to LEIN Information - Unauthorized Disclosure, a 93-day misdemeanor. This morning Chief Costello was sentenced to five days in jail by District Court Judge William Hackel III.

However, late this afternoon Judge Hackel heard an emergency motion submitted by defense counsel Art Weiss, on behalf of his client Richmond Police Chief Thomas Costello. Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor and Chief of District Courts Kumar Palepu, and defense counsel Art Weiss addressed Judge Hackel during the hearing. Assistant Prosecutor Kumar Palepu, stated that: "case law requires that the defendant is given an opportunity to withdraw his plea if a Judge does not abide by the sentencing agreement or seeks to set additional terms." Judge Hackel vacated Richmond Police Chief Thomas Costello's sentence and recused himself from the case.

"In the pursuit of justice and fundamental fairness, the law allows for a defendant to withdraw a plea when there is a plea agreement and additional term(s) are added to the sentence. This is a testament to the integrity of our judicial system," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's office represents the people. We are committed to achieving justice and following the laws of the State of Michigan. All that are accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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