

February 8, 2011

Ken Burton, Police Chief
City of Columbia Missouri Police Department
600 East Walnut Street
Columbia, MO 65201

This letter serves as my letter of resignation from the Columbia Missouri Police Department, effective Wednesday, February 23, 2011. I am currently on FMLA leave through Tuesday, February 8. I will use comp time, then accrued vacation and/or floating holidays for the rest of the interim days between the 9th and the 23rd which are not regular days off.

On Thursday, December 9, 2010, you were informed by the City's legal counsel not to release my name to the news media. You chose initially to abide by this. Everything changed on Monday, December 13, 2010, when you learned that KOMU TV had submitted a records request asking for certain e-mails. After you learned of the records request, you chose to transfer me to patrol, informing me of that on December 14, after making your decision Monday December 13. You directed me not to return to work the following day, and on that day you met with a reporter from KOMU TV and told him I was the subordinate involved in an affair with the Deputy Chief, and that was essentially why you planned to transfer me. You then had the transfer publicly announced. This was all done deliberately to make the records request "go away." It was illegal on more than one level, and unethical, and done out of self-preservation on your part. It was not done for the good of the department. There were no e-mails of concern regarding me, which were sent to or from me; or to or from the Deputy Chief. There were no e-mails of concern regarding other female employees, sent to or from them, or to or from the Deputy Chief. The concern was yours.

After learning that I was basically bartered to quash a records request, I also learned about the lawsuit in which you were involved in Haltom City, Texas. After learning the details of what you did to the Corporal who filed the suit after being reinstated to his job, I became even more concerned about my future at the Columbia Police Department as long as you are the police chief. I have been too intimately involved in and aware of your actions and decision-making over the past two years to feel safe at all returning to work for you now after this.

You have created an impossible situation for me that I will continue to resolve as best I can, but it cannot involve my returning to work for you.

Sincerely,



Jessica Pitman