



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

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October 24, 2017

Chief Charles Dodge
Montague Police Department
180 Turnpike Road
Montague, MA 01376

Dear Chief Dodge,

I write to inform you of the outcome on a vote of the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force Executive Board regarding the Montague Police Department's reinstatement to the Task Force. On October 19, 2017, the Executive Board voted to not allow the Montague Police Department to participate in the Task Force until such time as there is a change in personnel at the position of Police Chief at the Montague Police Department.

Placing a member of the Montague Police Department in the position of answering to both the Montague Police Chief and the leadership of the Task Force, where drug investigations would need to remain confidential from the Police Chief, is untenable. This risks eroding the command structure of the Montague Police Department or worse, compromising the safety of those people involved in the dangerous work of drug investigations. This would be an unacceptable ask of the member departments of the Task Force and/or of any assigned officer from the Montague Police Department.

The Task Force remains committed to the residents of Montague and, given that the leadership of the Task Force is directed by members of the Massachusetts State Police, the Task Force will continue to undertake criminal investigations as needed within the Town of Montague.

Regards,

David E. Sullivan
Northwestern District Attorney

Cc Steven F. Ellis
Town Administrator
Montague, Massachusetts

