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**FW: can you forward the arrest report for**

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**From** Derek Brindisi

**Date** Fri 10/11/2024 8:23 AM

**To** Patrick Flaherty; Sue Giovanetti

**Cc** Selectmen

Good morning Patrick and Sue,

I am bringing to your attention my ongoing frustration with Mark Pothier, Independent staff and their collective poor behavior. Since August, I have met with Mark et al, with town staff and SB members to find ways in which both parties can work in collaboration with one another. These meetings typically end with agreement on how to improve communications and how we expect to receive requests and how the Independent expects in turn to receive the information they are seeking. Unfortunately, what appeared to be partnership has quickly eroded because of the lack of commitment by Mark et al. This past week, came to a head, when Mark and Andrea were harassing Town officials to a point that I had to intervene, and lay out in writing what I call "rules of engagement" (see the 7 bullet points below). The next day I then followed up with a memo from Chief Flynn on how he expects to work with the Independent (see attached PI Memo). As you will read below, Mark took exception to the Chief's memo and refuses to comply. Even more concerning was a subsequent email where Mark threatens me with "You're really forcing our hand here" (see attached email). I have grave concerns with the intent of this newspaper and have informed all town staff to no longer communicate with the Independent. Additionally, I have communicated with other Town leaders who share the same level of frustration with the Independent and will likely follow a similar pattern as what I have chosen.

As colleagues of mine in this community and as Board members of the Independent, I wanted you both to be fully aware of why I made this decision. We are no longer subscribing to the Independent's sensationalized reporting wrought with negativity. This town has so many great things to offer and is moving in such a positive direction. The only problem is, no one knows it because of the distasteful reporting of the Independent.

Derek Brindisi, ICMA-CM  
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