

March 28, 2019

Dear Bristol Selectboard;

I noticed that Bristol is hiring a new police officer. I suspect that the Selectboard is only involved in hiring the chief, not individual officers. Nevertheless, I have one suggestion for the new addition to the force. Hire someone that respects the law. An officer's job is to uphold the law, not to be above it.

I'm referring to a very minor incident that probably went unnoticed by everyone except me. However, it speaks volumes about an officer's uncaring attitude and it reflects badly on the whole force.

Let me set the scene –

I was driving east through Bristol on Route 17 (West/Main St) at approximately 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2019. When I approached the stop light the light was green. But I had to stop for a male officer that was crossing from the park to Holley Hall. He was within the cross walk. Trouble was, he was crossing against the red light. If hadn't been paying close attention, I would've had to stop abruptly or swerve to avoid him. He clearly wasn't chasing a criminal and he seemed totally oblivious to the fact that he was basically jay-walking and stopping traffic. If I was an officer, I would've written him a ticket. I felt like honking and opening my window to exclaim my surprise and shock. But my parents taught me to respect the police – they have a tough job. And swearing at a police officer is never a good idea.

It was a harmless and perhaps absent-minded infraction and maybe it was the chief himself. Regardless, it doesn't instill trust in the Bristol Police Department. As we know, trust is a fundamental principle for successful community policing - we have to trust those who are entrusted to protect us.

Good luck with your hiring. You have a tough job too.

Sincerely,



Allen Karnatz
New Haven, VT

cc: Bruce Nason – Bristol Police Chief