## ELDRIDGE & BLAKNEY, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

David M. Eldridge<sup>†</sup>
Tasha C. Blakney
Loretta G. Cravens
Troy S. Weston

The Cherokee Building
400 West Church Avenue, Suite 101
Knoxville, TN 37902
www.eblaw.us

P.O. Box 398 Knoxville, TN 37901 tel: (865) 544-2010 fax: (865) 544-2015

June 30, 2015

Via Facsimile to 615.741.4000

D. Scott Wilder
Department of Commerce and Insurance
Assist. General Counsel for Fire Prevention & Law Enforcement
500 James Robertson Parkway, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: Oak Ridge Police Chief James T. Akagi

Dear Mr. Wilder:

It was a pleasure speaking with you on Monday, June 29, 2015, and I appreciate your call to my office. This letter will confirm the details of our communication.

Specifically, this letter will confirm your intention, on behalf of the POST Commission, to release my letter addressed to the U.S. Attorney's Office and copied to Ray Farris of the POST Commission, in response to recent media inquiries. Certainly, I appreciate the courtesy of your telephone call to advise me that the letter was being released pursuant to recent media requests.

Next, to summarize the details of our communication, this will confirm that POST currently has no active investigation concerning my client, Chief James Akagi, based upon the referrals received by the POST Commission concerning the alleged Order of Protection issues. You have advised me that POST has no statutory authority to pursue an investigation following the referral and, instead, that POST simply referred the matter to the appropriate jurisdictions (U.S. Attorney's Office, Anderson County, and Blount County District Attorneys' Offices), consistent with POST policy and, further, consistent with the statutory limitations to POST's authority. Thus, to the extent that there is any statement or insinuation that POST is currently investigating Chief Akagi as a result of the issues raised regarding an alleged Order of Protection, those indications would be inaccurate.

Furthermore, as I advised you during our conversation, I was unsuccessful in my efforts to reach Mr. Farris from the POST Commission. However, I did appreciate the opportunity to speak with you directly concerning what we view to be significant inaccuracies in Mr. Farris'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Certified as a Criminal Trial Specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization

D. Scott Wilder June 30, 2015 Page 2

letter referring these matters as described above. More specifically, it is regrettable that Mr. Farris' letter implied that an Order of Protection had been entered against Chief Akagi when, as you are now aware from your review of these matters, no such final order implicating weapon possession was ever entered. Furthermore, we take significant issue with the following statement in Mr. Farris' letter concerning Chief Akagi: "During the effective period of this Order of Protection, Chief Akagi submitted his firearms qualifications scores to the Commission which appears to be a violation of the aforementioned Order of Protection." Again, as you are now aware, the statements in this communication from Mr. Farris are factually and legally inaccurate. Simply put, there was no final Order of Protection to be violated and, accordingly, there is no irregularity with regard to Chief Akagi having submitted his firearms qualifications to POST as required. To the extent that this referral letter could have been construed to imply otherwise, it is both unfortunate and inaccurate.

Again, I am pleased that we had an opportunity to discuss these important matters, to confirm that there is not (and has not been) any ongoing investigation from POST concerning Chief Akagi, and, further, to address the inaccurate referral letter sent by the POST Commission to the Unites States Attorney and to two District Attorneys.

I further understand that it is likely that POST will view this communication as one which is entitled to be received by media outlets upon request. Please be advised that, on behalf of Chief Akagi, we have no objection to the release of this communication if it is requested pursuant to a public information request.

As always, if you have any questions, wish to discuss this matter with me further, or if you feel that I have inaccurately summarized the content of our communication, please contact me at your very earliest convenience. Again, I appreciate your professional courtesies.

With best regards,

ELDRIDGE & BLAKNEY, P.C.

TASHA C. BLAKNEY

TCB/ras

cc: Chief James Akagi

TIME

:06-30-2015 13:23

:Eldridge & Blakney

FAX NO.1 NAME :8655442015

FILE NO.

: 056

DATE

: 06.30 13:22

DOCUMENT PAGES

: ☎ 16157414000 : 2

START TIME

: 06.30 13:22 : 06.30 13:23

END TIME PAGES SENT

2

STATUS

: OK

\*\*\*SUCCESSFUL TX NOTICE\*\*\*

## ELDRIDGE & BLAKNEY, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

David M. Eldridge<sup>†</sup> Tasha C. Blakney Loretta G. Cravens Troy S. Weston The Cherokee Building 400 West Church Avenue, Suite 101 Knoxville, TN 37902 www.eblaw.us P.O. Box 398 Knoxville, TN 37901 tel: (865) 544-2010 fax: (865) 544-2015

June 30, 2015

## Via Facsimile to 615.741.4000

D. Scott Wilder
Department of Commerce and Insurance
Assist. General Counsel for Fire Prevention & Law Enforcement
500 James Robertson Parkway, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

## Re: Oak Ridge Police Chief James T. Akagi

Dear Mr. Wilder:

It was a pleasure speaking with you on Monday, June 29, 2015, and I appreciate your call to my office. This letter will confirm the details of our communication.

Specifically, this letter will confirm your intention, on behalf of the POST Commission, to release my letter addressed to the U.S. Attorney's Office and copied to Ray Farris of the POST Commission, in response to recent media inquiries. Certainly, I appreciate the courtesy of your telephone call to advise me that the letter was being released pursuant to recent media requests.

Next, to summarize the details of our communication, this will confirm that POST currently has no active investigation concerning my client, Chief James Akegi, based upon the referrals received by the POST Commission concerning the alleged Order of Protection Issues. You have advised me that POST has no statutory authority to pursue an investigation following the referral and, instead, that POST simply referred the matter to the appropriate Jurisdictions (U.5. Attorney's Office, Anderson County, and Blount County District Attorneys' Offices), consistent with POST policy and, further, consistent with the statutory limitations to POST's authority. Thus, to the extent that there is any statement or insinuation that POST is currently investigating Chief Akagi as a result of the Issues raised regarding an alleged Order of Protection, those indications would be inaccurate.

Furthermore, as I advised you during our conversation, I was unsuccessful in my efforts to reach Mr. Farris from the POST Commission. However, I did appreciate the opportunity to speak with you directly concerning what we view to be significant inaccuracles in Mr. Farris'

<sup>†</sup>Gertified as a Criminal Trial Specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization