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RECEIVED FEB 03 2015

Dear Chief Backhaus:

It has come to our attention that there is a question of the competence of Sergeant Michael Johnson as a Monterey Police Officer. My husband and I have lived in Monterey part and full time for the past 20 years.

As residents and taxpayers of our wonderful community, we would like to tell you of our experience with Sergeant Johnson:

We are impressed with his professionalism...Perhaps his Navy experience has taught him how to deal with the law, public, and private citizens.

Since he has joined our community, he has taken an active part in all military services at our Veterans Park. From flag raising to honoring both our Vets as well as the Dean Amidon memorial service, Officer Johnson was able to assist in procedure as well as the human element. His approach to the Monterey Police Department has been similar. He is well versed in procedure and the law and has been a huge asset to our own family.

Aaron and I are in our 80's, and as older citizens, we sometimes need assistance. My husband returned from his medical office in Springfield (he commutes four days a week) and complained that he thought he'd fractured his ribs falling on a chair before he left his office. He had driven all the way home, limped into the house, and we called 911 for an ambulance to take him to Fairview Hospital. Sergeant Johnson was the first person to arrive, followed by our wonderful volunteer Fire Department, and much later, the ambulance. They were all wonderful. Sergeant Johnson in a true professional with a wonderful way of relating to people. Everyone stood in our front hall rather than sitting because Aaron was more comfortable standing in pain. Luckily, after X-Rays at the hospital, it proved to be just a bruise. The Sergeant made a follow up visit to make sure Aaron was managing OK.

On another occasion, Aaron decided to try my Jacuzzi bath, not realizing he was too frail to climb out of it! Again, I called the Police department, and Officer Johnson arrived, jumped into the tub and lifted him up so he could climb out.

As you know, we are at the end of Sylvan Road, which is a private dirt road and very isolated, especially in the winter. We are very lucky to have Officer Johnson in our town. He and Chief Backhaus complement each other, and we love them both. Please do not allow part time police officers to determine the future of our terrific full time Police Force.

Sincerely,  
Aaron and Lynne Leavitt  
64 Worth Lane  
Monterey

*Aaron & Lynne Leavitt  
(See below)*

cc. Board of Selectmen  
Att. Wayne Burkhart, Chair