



October 9, 2026

Via email: ron@watchtowerci.com

Ron Helms

RE: Public Information Request – Ron Helms (9.25.26)
ORR ID: I092526RH

Dear Ron Helms:

This letter is in response to your public information request received by the City of Italy (“City”) on September 25, 2026, in which you requested: “the written statement that Chief of Police Chad Nelson prepared to read at the City Council Called Meeting on September 22, 2026, during the item concerning the appeal of termination of a police officer.” Enclosed is the information responsive to your request. Because the City fully responded to your request your request is now closed.

Very truly yours,
MESSER & FORT, PLLC

PAIGE A.L. GOINS
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

PG/LP

Enclosure: Publicly Available Information

cc: Amber Cunningham, TRMC
City Secretary
City of Italy, Texas

Good afternoon, Mayor and Councilmembers.

I was appointed as interim chief of police on November 10th, 2025 and was later appointed as the Chief of Police charged with leading the City of Italy's police department. In that role, I had to make the difficult decision to terminate the employment of Kevin Oginski.

On April 23rd, 2026, I learned that Kevin Oginski, a member of the Italy Police Department, had allegedly disclosed an active warrant to the individual named in it. That information was confidential and its unauthorized disclosure posed a serious officer-safety risk and violation of department policy; I consulted the City Attorney's Office. We determined that the allegation required investigation. In accordance with Chapter 614 of the Local Government Code, a written complaint and notice of investigation were prepared and personally served on Mr. Oginski. Given the circumstances, the City Attorney's Office retained a neutral third-party investigator.

The investigator received the complaint and independently reviewed only the allegations identified in the 614 complaint, which involved alleged violations of City policies. My office defined the scope but provided no further direction, and I remained neutral throughout the process. While the investigator did not sustain the violation related to the initial allegation of releasing confidential law enforcement information, other information received during the course of the investigation revealed concerning conduct. An amended 614 notice was provided to Mr. Oginski, and he was given the opportunity to respond to the amended complaint.

Upon completion, the investigator submitted the findings to the City Attorney and sustained the allegation that Mr. Oginski engaged in unethical conduct in violation of the following City policies:

Policy No. 1.003 City of Italy Police Code of Conduct

V. Professional Conduct and Bearing

VII. Public Activities

Chapter 2, Section 2.01 General Employee Responsibilities

Detailed information regarding the investigative methodology will need to be directed to Jesse Prado.

After consultation with the City attorney's office and careful consideration, I made the decision to terminate the employment of Kevin Oginski. Oginski was served with a notice of termination on August 6th, 2026. Shortly thereafter he requested an appeal of his termination.

I ask the City Council to uphold the termination of Kevin Oginski. The third-party investigator concluded that Mr. Oginski engaged in unethical conduct intended to undermine the fairness of the City's hiring process. His actions damaged public confidence in the integrity of the City and its police department and raised serious concerns about his ability to perform his duties as a law enforcement officer effectively and appropriately. For these reasons, I do not believe he can be successfully reintegrated into the department.

The investigation findings must also be submitted to the District Attorney for review. Based on the sustained allegation, the District Attorney may determine that Mr. Oginski is no longer eligible to testify in criminal prosecutions. That decision rests solely with the District Attorney and may further make his employment with the department infeasible.