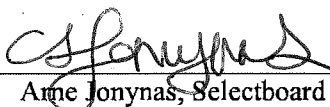


On May 10, 2019, Obadiah Jacobs was stopped in Chester by Sergeant William Frank of the Chester Police Department subsequent to the issuance of a be on the lookout transmission issued by another law enforcement agency. The circumstances of that stop have been the subject of an investigation conducted by the Vermont Human Rights Commission (VHRC). The investigative report, and the Town of Chester's response to that report, were made public and posted on the Town of Chester's website at www.chestervt.gov. On May 27, 2021, the VHRC administratively determined that there was reasonable grounds to believe that the Town of Chester discriminated against Obadiah Jacobs under Vermont's Fair Housing and Public Accommodations Act.

The Town of Chester, Obadiah Jacobs, and the VHRC have reached an agreement to resolve any and all claims arising from the incident. The Town of Chester sincerely apologizes to Mr. Jacobs recognizing that no arrest or other action was taken as a result of the stop and that no basis was found during the stop to believe that Mr. Jacobs was engaged in illegal activity. The Town of Chester wishes Mr. Jacobs the best in his future endeavors and hopes that he will feel welcome and secure whenever he has occasion to be in Chester in the future.

The Town of Chester remains committed to the principle that all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, be treated equally and fairly in the conduct of its affairs including the actions of its police officers. To that end, Chester acknowledges that it can and will improve the delivery of its public safety services and is, to that end, actively engaged in the process of reviewing and updating its police policies and procedures. Chester is also reviewing the establishment of a citizen's advisory committee to help guide Chester and its police department in improving accessibility, communications, accountability, public awareness, transparency and best practices.

Chester Selectboard,

By: 
Anne Jonynas, Selectboard Chair

DATED: 10/1/2021