

PRESS RELEASE

Today, the Vermont Human Rights Commission decided that a reasonable basis exists to believe that discrimination occurred in connection with an investigatory stop made by a Chester Police Officer in May of 2019. While the circumstances, reasons and motivations for that investigatory stop remain to be resolved in a court of law, and are a matter of considerable dispute, Chester looks forward to actively engaging with the HRC and the Complainant going forward in an effort to resolve the matter and bring it to a fair and equitable conclusion.

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, engaged in the process of reviewing and updating its police policies and procedures. Chester is also reviewing the establishment of a police advisory committee to help guide Chester and its police department in improving accessibility, communications, accountability, public awareness, transparency and best practices.

A copy of the HRC Investigative Report and the Town of Chester's Response to Investigative Report are posted on Chester's website at www.chestervt.gov.