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January 25, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

**In re: Chief John Helfant, Northfield Police Department**

Dear Counsel:

It has come to my attention that Chief John Helfant, of the Northfield Police Department, and formerly of the Berlin Police Department and Vermont State Police, is alleged to have been untruthful in an affidavit of probable cause and search warrant application sworn to during his time as a member of the Berlin Police Department (*State v. Carlos Inostroza*, Docket No. 877-7-18 Wncr, Incident No. 18BL003053).

This matter has been referred to the Office of the Attorney General and an investigation has been opened. The Municipal Manager for the Town of Northfield has also been informed. As of this date there has been no change to Chief Helfant's duty status – a matter within the discretion of the Town of Northfield.

My office is not aware of other allegations of untruthfulness or that reports filed in your clients' cases are not accurate. This information is disclosed consistent with the State's Constitutional and ethical requirements, including V.R.Cr.P. 16(a)(2)(G) and (b)(2) to ensure awareness of this matter for purposes of discovery and disposition of pending cases where Chief Helfant was the investigating officer.

I have determined that the allegation bears sufficient credibility to provide this initial notice, consistent with *Brady v. Maryland* and *Giglio v. United States*, however, wrongdoing has not yet been substantiated or unsubstantiated by any criminal or internal investigation. Should additional relevant information become available, disclosures will be made consistent with our legal obligations. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rory T. Thibault'.

Rory T. Thibault  
State's Attorney