

Fenwick Island Police Chief recently was informed that the Town Council had decided not to renew his contract, just two months after he was recognized by those same individuals for 20 years of dedicated service to the Town of Fenwick. Due to the fact that Chief Devlin's contract was not renewed he was unable to see the full benefits of his pension, as he will now fall short of the 25 years of service. The question has been asked of the Town Council, "Why was Chief Devlin terminated?" and to date a reasonable explanation has yet to be given.

#### Timeline of Events

**March 24, 2023** – Chief Devlin was presented an award for 20 Years of Service with Fenwick Island at the March Town Council Meeting.

**April 23, 2023** – Sunday evening after 9:00 PM, Fenwick Island Mayor Natalie Magdeburger paid a visit to the Police Building. It has been stated through a Press Release issued by the Town of Fenwick that the purpose of her visit was to obtain the police schedule and it further claims that Chief Devlin had personally given her the door code she used to access the exterior of the building and states that the on duty officer opened the interior door for her (which can also be opened using a door code).

**April 24, 2023** – Chief Devlin was alerted to the events from the evening before, however the version of events told to Chief Devlin differs than that told in the Press Release issued by the Town of Fenwick. It was reported to Devlin that Mayor Magdeburger gained access to both the exterior and interior doors utilizing the security door codes and was escorted out of the secured area by the on duty police officer. Under the laws of the State of Delaware it is required that Devlin report this "break of security" to State officials; therefore a report was made and the request for two new security door codes to be issued.

**April 24 - 25, 2023** – Chief Devlin has made further claim that following the security codes being reissued that Mayor Magdeburger demanded she be given those codes.

**April 28, 2023** – Fenwick Island Town Council conducted a Executive Session at 1:00 PM which was not noted on the Town's online calendar of events as per normal standards, but subsequently it was only noted on the Regular Meeting of the Town Council Agenda.

**May 1, 2023** – Chief Devlin was presented in writing that the Town Council had decided not to renew his employment contract, days after he had reported the Mayor of illegally entering the Police Building on a Sunday evening.

**May 18, 2023** – Local Newspaper Coastal Point was one of the first to report on the issues surrounding the termination of Chief Devlin. It was written according to Devlin that he had given 23 years of service to the Town of Fenwick and that there had been no inclination leading up to the termination of contract that his future would be cut short, in fact quite the opposite had occurred with the recent praise and recognition for his service. It is additionally clear upon reading the story, that the Reporter had given Mayor Magdeburger an opportunity to provide any information relating to the termination of Chief Devlin and given the fact that she ran her political campaign on the importance of Transparency, it was expected that further explanation would be given. However, there was no transparency provided in her statement.

[https://www.coastalpoint.com/news/communities/fenwickisland/fenwick-will-not-renew-devlin-s-contract/article\\_68d9edb0-f59e-11ed-b078-6f799556b687.html](https://www.coastalpoint.com/news/communities/fenwickisland/fenwick-will-not-renew-devlin-s-contract/article_68d9edb0-f59e-11ed-b078-6f799556b687.html)

**May 26, 2023** – Fenwick Island conducted their Regular Town Council Meeting and several residents of Fenwick Island spoke out regarding the concerns surrounding the Termination of Chief Devlin and also the alleged security break at the Police Building.

**May 30, 2023** – A strongly worded Press Release from the Town of Fenwick Island was posted on the town website, shortly after the Coastal Point article was printed. The tone of this press is very accusatory and negative towards Coastal Point, claiming that the allegations are “recklessly false, misleading and inflammatory,” and claims the newspaper should exercise greater caution before writing news articles.

<https://fenwickisland.delaware.gov/2023/05/30/press-release-town-of-fenwick-island-statement-re-coastal-point-article-alleging-security-breach/>

**June 1, 2023** – Coastal Point responded to the Press Release from the Town of Fenwick, explains the importance of news agency’s following through and doing their job of reporting the news, which is exactly what they did on May 18<sup>th</sup>. A newsworthy story was presented to them and as they state “The people of Fenwick Island deserve and should demand an open process on how their elected officials and tax-funded employees perform their duties and behave in the act of performing said duties. And that is where our responsibilities lie — with the people of Fenwick Island.”

[https://www.coastalpoint.com/opinion/editorial/official-s-public-statement-required-reporting/article\\_6f3d3cec-00ad-11ee-a2ec-23e22807aaff.html](https://www.coastalpoint.com/opinion/editorial/official-s-public-statement-required-reporting/article_6f3d3cec-00ad-11ee-a2ec-23e22807aaff.html)

**June 15, 2023** – Approximately around this date a GoFundMe Fundraiser was created by a group of concerned Fenwick Island Residents which was spearheaded by James Simpson. The goal was to create a fundraiser which would offer monetary support to Chief Devlin’s legal expenses.

<https://gofund.me/199008c2>

**June 20, 2023** –Members of Town Council received a 20-page letter drafted by Chief Devlin’s Attorney Thomas Neuberger. The document explains multiple reasons why the Town of Fenwick Island has wrongfully Terminated the Police Chief, further accusing the Town of doing this simply as retaliation for Chief Devlin reporting the Mayor. The sole purpose of this letter was to demand that the town reinstate Chief Devlin immediately and restore his contract through August 31, 2025.

(LINK TO LETTER HERE)

**June 26, 2023** – Attorney Thomas Neuberger spoke with WGMD The Talk of Delmarva Radio Station and discussed the facts of the case and explained the letter presented to the Fenwick Island Town Council.

(AUDIO HERE)

Additional News Articles:

[Coastal Point – June 22, 2023 - Fenwick chief demands reinstatement of contract](#)

[The Dispatch – May 15, 2023 – Fenwick Terminates Police Chief’s Employment Contract](#)

[WRDE – May 16, 2023 – Fenwick Police Chief Nonrenewed in Unanimous Town Council Decision](#)

[Yahoo! Money via. Delaware Online – May 17, 2023 - Longtime Fenwick police chief's contract not renewed. He says he has 'no indication' why](#)