

UNCATEGORIZED

Deputy Chief Hughes terminated.





The Estes Park Police Department (EPPD) enforces public safety and laws within the Town of Estes Park. (EPPD/Courtesy image)



By **MICHAEL ROMERO** | romerom@eptrail.com | Estes Park Trail-Gazette
March 31, 2024 at 3:26 p.m.

Deputy Chief Hughes was terminated Friday afternoon, as verified by Travis Machalek, Town Administrator.

When asked by the Trail-Gazette for additional information, Mcahalek responded that the Town would not comment further on this issue until after all hearings and appeals have been completed to respect due process.

The Trail-Gazette also inquired if former Chief Hayes was still involved in the process and, if so, why.

Below is Town Administrator Machaleks response:

No, former Chief Hayes is not still involved in this process. I was not aware of Deputy Chief Hughes' placement on the Brady List by the Larimer County DA when it occurred, nor was I consulted before it occurred.

Below is a summary of answers given to the Trail-Gazette on this matter upon prior questioning:

Deputy Police Chief Jim Hughes was placed back on Administrative Leave after the Town became aware that the District Attorney's office had placed Hughes on the Brady List on Dec. 14, 2023, with a note "pending investigation." Neither the Town, nor Deputy Chief Hughes, were aware of this fact when his IA investigation was closed and he returned to work Feb. 2. Whether or not Deputy Chief Hughes should remain on the Brady list is a discussion between him and the District Attorney's Office. The Town and EPPD are not involved in this determination but will be monitoring Deputy Hughes's status on the list. In the meantime, Hughes

Deputy Chief Jim Hughes was placed on administrative leave Dec. 1, 2023 while an internal affairs investigation was conducted by a third party – the City of Brighton. The investigation focused on three potential violations of Town and Police Department policies, and did not involve members of the public. The three allegations pertained to Codes of Conduct, including attention to duties, job performance, and truthfulness. Brighton determined that the allegations were unsupported by its investigation. The Deputy Chief returned to work Feb. 2, 2024.

Brady List:

The District Attorney has the authority to add and remove individuals they deem not credible to the Brady List. The District Attorney can do this regardless of the outcome of investigations by other agencies, such as the City of Brighton’s IA investigation for Deputy Chief Hughes. The Town of Estes Park does not employ officers who are Brady-listed.

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