

## **SPECIFIC FINDINGS OF FACT PERTAINING TO THE TERMINATION OF DEPUTY TOWN MARSHAL THOMAS WRIGHT**

1. On October 5, 2024, the discharge of a firearm occurred in the town hall of Morristown Indiana.
2. Town Marshal Brad Trittipio was notified by Town Secretary, Elaine Goble Carlton, of an email advising that her door had been damaged by Deputy Marshal Thomas Wright.
3. Marshal Trittipio undertook an investigation of the matter and determined that damage was caused by a bullet impact originating in the town hall meeting room from an approximately .223 diameter hole that had been repaired on the west wall of the meeting room.
4. Materials were also located in the men's restroom of the Town Hall indicating that patching activities had been undertaken to repair the hole in the west wall of the women's restroom.
5. An additional hole was located inside the Clerk Treasurer's restroom behind a picture leaning against the wall. That hole was not repaired.
6. Marshal Trittipio searched the building access control system and determined Deputy Marshal's entry and exit into the Town Hall. He initially entered the town hall at 1518 hrs. for the first time.
7. Deputy Marshal Wright reentered the Town Hall door at 1931 hrs. and made several entries into the Town Hall and Meeting Room doors between 1937 and 2118 hrs. He entered the Clerk Treasurer's office door at 1949 hrs.
8. On October 7, 2024, Marshal Trittipio emailed Deputy Marshal Wright and requested an explanation of the incident causing damage to the door. No response was received by October 12, 2024.
9. Pursuant to Marshal Trittipio's statutory authority, Deputy Town Marshal Wright was suspended with pay commencing October 13, 2024, and ending on October 17, 2024.

10. Deputy Marshal Wright did not request a hearing concerning the suspension imposed by Marshal Trittipo. The paid suspension therefore became final and non-appealable.

11. Marshal Trittipo continued his investigation and on November 19, 2024, he requested the Safety Board of Morristown Indiana review the conduct of Wright for alleged violations of Morristown Police Department's 2012 Standard Operating Procedures as follows:

1-45 Responsibility for Loss or Damage of Town Own Equipment

1-49 Damage to Real or Personal Property

2-004 Discharge of Firearms

2-2005 Report of Discharge of Firearms

12. The safety Board established a meeting for the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024 at 6:30 PM in executive session pursuant to the provision of the act governing individuals over whom the Board has jurisdiction.

13. Deputy Marshal Wright was given written notice of the hearing on December 4, 2024, at 1440 hrs. Notice was conveyed by hand delivery. A copy of the notice is attached to these Findings as Exhibit "A."

14. The meeting convened as scheduled and was called to order by the chair of the Safety Board. The safety Board is comprised of all members of the Town Council. All members were present.

15. Marshal Trittipo presented in writing the results of his investigation and the basis for violation of the above-listed Standard Operating Procedures.

16. Deputy Marshal Wright appeared in person.

17. The notice of the meeting provided to Deputy Marshal Wright (Exhibit "A") advised Deputy Marshal Wright of his rights under Ind. Code § 36-8-3-4.

18. Marshal Trittipo reviewed the incident in detail and showed video taken from one of the cameras within Deputy Wright's police vehicle depicting him inside the town hall and showing the firearm discharge as well as his movements within the Town Hall thereafter.

19. Marshal Trittipo also presented photographic evidence of a detailed breakdown and inspection of Deputy Marshal Wright's rifle. The inspection did not reveal any defect which would have caused the discharge.
20. Deputy Marshal Wright was given the opportunity to speak, cross-examine witnesses and present any evidence he felt pertinent to the matter.
21. Deputy Marshal Wright did not present any documentary evidence or call any witnesses other than pose some questions to Marshal Trittipo.
22. During his comments, Deputy Marshal Wright admitted the facts of the incident and further acknowledged that he did not report the incident in a timely fashion or utilize proper protocol. He did state that after the incident he left on vacation, which apparently was a cruise. He did not offer any explanation as to why he did not report the incident, complete an incident report, or fully explain the nature of the incident immediately after its occurrence.
23. During the executive session one or more members of the Safety Board observed that the actions of immediately patching some of the bullet holes and not reporting the incident could be viewed as an attempt to cover up what had occurred.
24. One or more members of the Safety Board stated they viewed the scenario as indicating a lack of integrity and judgment.
25. The safety Board adjourned the executive session, and pursuant to proper notice, convened a public meeting to take final action regarding the information received in executive session and whether any further disciplinary action should be taken.
26. At least one member of the public attended the open meeting.
27. During the public meeting the evidence and discussions which occurred in executive session were briefly reviewed.
28. Counsel for the town advised the Safety Board that it could, (a) take no further action and impose no further disciplinary measures; (b) impose an additional suspension with or without pay; or (c) terminate Deputy Marshal Wright.
29. Safety Board member Larry Tracy moved to terminate Deputy Marshal Wright. The motion was seconded by Safety Board member Tammy Davis.

30. Vote was taken on the motion which passed with four affirmative votes and one negative vote.

31. Deputy Marshal Wright requested that the termination commence after the Christmas holiday and his suggestion was accepted with termination effective December 31. Deputy Marshal Wright was suspended with pay to and including December 31.

32. Deputy Marshal Wright was advised by Marshal Trittipio that he could not undertake any law enforcement activities on behalf of the town, and that he must return all town equipment.

33. Deputy Marshal Wright was further advised of his appeal rights under the statute.

34. The public meeting thereafter adjourned.

35. The Safety Board adopts these findings and shall make them a part of the records of the Board.

36. The vote of the safety Board was as follows:

December 18, 2024

Safety Board of the TOWN OF  
MORRISTOWN, INDIANA

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Dave Benefiel      Yes

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Larry Tracy      Yes

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Tammy Davis      Yes

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Ralph Henderson      Yes

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Kristi Langkabel      No