

Chief, cop step down amid profiling claim

Sergeant resigns, but officials say investigation will continue

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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The Tiburon police sergeant whose heated late-night exchange with a local Black business owner sparked town-wide discussions on racial bias within law enforcement has resigned from

his post. In a Sept. 1 Tiburon Talk newsletter emailed to residents, Town Manager Greg Chanis announced Sgt. Michael Blasi had voluntarily resigned that day and would leave the Tiburon Police Department im-

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Undersheriff will take over for retiring police chief

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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Tiburon Police Chief Michael Cronin will retire from the department's top job Sept. 13 — a move town officials said has been in the works for "some time" but comes amid public scrutiny over the way Cronin and his

department handled an August exchange with a Black business owner and reacted to a June Black Lives Matter rally held in Marin City. Town Manager Greg Chanis announced Cronin's departure in a Tiburon Talk

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The anchor of Tiburon



ELLIOT KARLAN ARCHIVES / FOR THE ARK

Sam's Anchor Cafe celebrates a century on the bay

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**
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PROHIBITION HAD JUST been enacted in the U.S. when Sam Vella began slinging drinks on Tiburon's shoreline. His bar — a wooden plank over a pair of sawhorses under a tent on the beach — would lay the foun-

dation for the town's landmark businesses: Sam's Anchor Cafe. A century later, the bar and restaurant is the peninsula's longest continuously operating eatery and a mainstay on Tiburon's Main Street waterfront for locals and tourists alike, a place to see and be seen with its twin dining rooms and massive rear deck offering

expansive views of the bay. Though local historians still debate exactly when Vella started the business — and even whether it was really in 1920 — Sam's is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, though the county's coronavirus-related re-

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Marin's plans to reopen gyms, theaters and more delayed by state

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Towns take over enforcement of virus complaints about businesses

20 reported on Tiburon Peninsula; few investigated as county loses track

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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Marin officials have abandoned a countywide task force created to investigate tips about businesses violating COVID-19 health orders and will instead leave it up to cities and towns like Tiburon and Belvedere to handle local complaints and issue warnings or citations.

The decision, effective Sept. 1, comes after difficulties streamlining the complaint system, county officials said, specifically problems with managing and following up on the hundreds of complaints the county has received since mid-July.

That includes nearly 20 complaints about businesses on the Tiburon Peninsula, including at least nine in Tiburon, two in Belvedere and eight in Strawberry. For more than half of those, the county either never followed up or couldn't say what actions were taken, if any.

"In the end, we decided it would be more efficient to do this locally," said Angela Nicholson, assistant coun-

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HIGH-END REMODELS & NEW CONSTRUCTION



Reports, *continued from page 17*

Garbage people: 8:05 p.m. Sept. 1, a Paradise Drive caller reported a group had left litter in a park and ignored a park ranger when he asked them to clean it up. The caller asked officers to stop the group while they were leaving town and give them a warning about littering. Officers searched Paradise Drive, but the group had left the area.

Belvedere police log

Smoothed over: 2:09 p.m. Aug. 26, a Madrona Avenue caller reported two cars were parked illegally on the street, which caused a cement truck to run over his hedges and landscaping. An officer went out and facilitated the exchange of information between the homeowner and the cement-truck driver.

Eye in the sky: 7:39 p.m. Aug. 26, a Belvedere Avenue caller reported seeing a man and woman walking through a construction site through his security-camera system. An officer went to the site and found the two subjects, who said they were looking at the view. They were given a warning, and the caller was advised.

Licks and registration, please: 11:03 a.m. Aug. 29, a San Rafael Avenue caller reported finding a small brindle French bulldog without a collar or tags. An officer arrived and scanned the dog for a microchip and requested Marin Humane's help locating the owner. The caller agreed to care for the dog until the owner was found.

Sheriff's log: Tiburon Peninsula

Toe the line: 12:48 p.m. Aug. 26, a Strawberry Circle caller reported being harassed by his neighbors over parking. The caller said his car had been tagged for 72-hour parking every time he left it parked on a public street. He was given advice regarding parking rules.

Basket case: 3:08 p.m. Aug. 27, a Thomas Drive caller reported her daughter had stolen several expensive items from her house. The caller said her daughter had a key to the residence, and at some point over the last several weeks entered the house and stole expensive art and household items. A deputy met with the caller and determined she was upset over "missing baskets." She was provided advice about civil litigation. No follow-up was requested.

Priority parking: 9:25 a.m. Aug. 28, a Strawberry Circle caller requested advice about what to do about his neighbors parking "too many cars" around the neighborhood. He said the neighbors would move their cars one space when they were tagged for 72 hours and block more spots. He was advised not to call the Sheriff's Office unless reporting a definite vehicle hazard or crime.

Blocking views: 10:26 a.m. Aug. 28, a Seminary Drive caller reported a truck with canoes stacked on top was causing a traffic hazard. She believed the truck was parked in a way that would cause cars to go into the other lane to get around. A deputy arrived and spoke with the caller, who said she was upset because the truck was blocking her view. No violation was observed, and the vehicle was marked for 72 hours.

Swapped: 8:17 a.m. Aug. 29, a Captain's Lane caller reported they had video footage of someone stealing their son's bike at 12:30 that morning. The caller said the subject, who was wearing a gray hoodie and camouflage pants, took the caller's son's bike and left another bike in its place. The caller

said the bike that was left belonged to the son's friend, who lives in the same complex. Deputies reviewed the footage, which showed the subject entering the front porch and taking the bike. The friend's bike was returned, and a report was taken for an approximate loss of \$500.

Return to recipient: 10:31 a.m. Aug. 30, a Seminary Drive caller reported finding a pile of unopened mail with Sausalito addresses on a walking path near her apartment complex. The caller said she left the mail in some bushes and described how deputies could find it. Upon arrival, deputies found a few pieces of unopened mail for a Napa Street address. It was dropped in a mailbox for redelivery. No further action was taken.

Duck for cover: 4:45 p.m. Aug. 30, a Tiburon Boulevard caller reported a man driving a white van had yelled "Get down" from his window. The caller said he then stopped by the van and the driver yelled, "Will you get down" and took off toward Highway 101. Deputies attempted to call back, but the caller could not be reached for more information. No further action was taken.

Lots to unpack: 9:54 a.m. Aug. 31, a Taylor Road caller reported there were empty boxes on the side of the street with a Park Place address on them. The caller said they believed the boxes might have been stolen packages that were opened and dumped. A deputy searched the area but was unable to find any boxes.

Key evidence: 9:58 a.m. Aug. 31, a Trinidad Drive caller reported someone had entered their unlocked car overnight. They took a spare car key and several other items from the glove box and center console. A theft report was taken.

Racking up a record: 4:10 p.m. Aug. 31, a Tiburon Boulevard caller reported a man was lying on his back across a bike rack near the side of the road. The caller said he hadn't moved and was concerned he was unwell or intoxicated. Deputies arrived and called paramedics to assist. The man was transported to a local hospital where he was placed under arrest for public intoxication.

Slipped the hook: 1:01 a.m. Sept. 1, a caller reported she had tried to rent a house in Tiburon, but people had tried to scam her. She requested information about fake ads on Craigslist and asked what to do if it happened again in the future. Advice was given.

Tiburon fire district log

Line the pavement: 10:24 a.m. Aug. 27, personnel responded to Vistazo West Street for a report of wires down in the roadway. A crew arrived to find a telecommunications line down; no arcing, sparking or hazards were detected. The line was coiled and placed on the side of the road.

Tree down: 11:48 a.m. Aug. 28, personnel responded to Old Landing Road for a report of a tree down. Upon arrival, the crew found a large oak tree on the ground along a property line in the resident's backyard. The information was passed on to the Tiburon Department of Public Works and the scene was cleared.

Southern Marin fire district log

No significant events were reported.

Compiled by Hannah Weikel. Police & Fire Reports includes items of note from public records and does not reflect all activity. Nothing in these reports should be construed as a finding of guilt.

Chief, *continued from page 1*

newsletter emailed to residents in the late afternoon Sept. 8, just at The Ark's press deadline. In the email, Chanis said he was making the announcement with "mixed emotions," though the message does not mention the June rally or the Aug. 21 incident at downtown clothing store Yema. Both incidents led to calls for local police reform, including five Black Lives Matter marches and demands for Cronin to step down or be removed. The incident at Yema prompted the resignation of one of the department's supervising sergeants late last week.

Chanis said he and Cronin, 72, had been discussing the timing of Cronin's retirement for a while, but Cronin had only recently chosen a date — Sept. 13 — that corresponds with the start of his military career in 1966. Cronin was hired as Tiburon police chief in March 2007 after nearly three decades at the San Rafael Police Department, where he also served as chief for four years.

Cronin could not be reached for immediate comment Sept. 8. However, Chanis, in the newsletter, called Cronin's impact on the town "significant."

"He has fostered partnerships, communication and trust within our community, and his philosophy toward successful law-enforcement practices has substantially moved our department forward," Chanis wrote.

The town will begin searching for the next police chief, Chanis said, which could take several months. In the meantime, Jamie Scardina, undersheriff for the Marin County Sheriff's Office, will serve as interim chief after Cronin's departure, overseeing 12 officers and four other staff.

Scardina, who was hired by the Sheriff's Office in 2000, was appointed as undersheriff in December 2018 after steadily working his way up the ranks. His first posting as a police officer was in Tiburon from 1998 to 2000.

A native of Elmira, N.Y., Cronin moved with his family to San Francisco and eventually San Anselmo when he was young. He joined the U.S. Army after graduating from Sir Francis Drake High School and fought in the Vietnam War.

Upon leaving the service, he became a deputy at the Marin County Jail. He would go on to serve 29 years in the San Rafael Police Department, including a stint as chief from September 2000 to July 2004. He first retired from law enforcement at age 56 and worked several years for a mortgage company before stepping into his role as Tiburon police chief in March 2007.

During his time in Tiburon, Cronin championed the implementation of the automatic license-plate-reader system, the institution of police body cameras and the development of the Yellow Bus Challenge school transportation program, Chanis said, saying Cronin's initiatives "are a clear demonstration of why Tiburon is consistently ranked as one of the safest communities in California."

However, Cronin, who is earning an annual salary of \$202,700, has come under public scrutiny twice in recent months for his dealings with race-related issues following the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and the ensuing protests and demands for police reform.

On June 1, Cronin sent out a Tiburon Talk email to residents ahead of a peaceful protest in Marin City the following day. In the message, Cronin warned residents of social-media chatter "encouraging participants to shift their attention to more affluent communities, with specific mention of Walnut Creek, Danville, Sausalito and Tiburon." He advised Tiburon residents to stay off southbound Highway 101 during the Marin City protest, noting that freeways had been blocked during other demonstrations in the Bay Area and across the nation.

While some community members thanked Cronin for taking precautionary measures, others were incensed Cronin had connected the potential for dangerous behavior to a protest in Marin City, which is 61 percent non-white, including 38 percent Black, while no warnings had been issued for similar Black Lives Matter rallies in nearby predominately white communities, including Mill Valley.

Cronin sent out an apology email to the community the next day. In it, he condemned racism and police brutality but couched his apology by addressing "those I have offended" and those who "construed (his warning) as offensive and racist."

His statement led to a local Black Lives Matter rally on June 23, in which protest organizer and Marin City activist Paul Austin called for Cronin to be "held accountable."

The June incident was followed last month by a tense late-night encounter between Tiburon police and local Black business owners Yema Khalif and Hawi Awash at their downtown Tiburon athletic clothing store Yema.

During the Aug. 21 incident, which occurred about 1 a.m., Tiburon Sgt. Michael Blasi and two other officers can be heard on video repeatedly questioning Khalif in the store's doorway, asking him to either show ID or prove ownership of the store. Khalif repeatedly declines to do so, saying he doesn't have to explain his presence if the officers can't articulate a problem.

The incident was captured on cellphone video and a police body camera and prompted Tiburon officials to order an independent investigation into the conduct of the officers involved. Belvedere and Tiburon also held a joint online community forum in which dozens of callers challenged officials to stamp out systemic racism and bias in policing. Still others in the community wrote letters to town officials backing the officers and faulting Khalif for not complying with their requests.

Blasi, the supervising sergeant in the encounter with Khalif, voluntarily resigned from his post Sept. 1. Blasi's lawyer said he plans to cooperate fully with the investigation.

However, some community members had also called for Cronin to step down, including at an Aug. 29 rally in front of the Tiburon Police Department that drew a crowd of about 200 people.

The rally was organized by Austin, the Marin City activist.

"Y'all need to come right here and make noise and make sure he steps down," he said. "Because his officers, they react the way that he lets them react. It always starts at the head and trickles down."

Reach Belvedere and public-safety reporter Hannah Weikel at 415-944-4627.



Cronin

Sergeant, continued from page 1

diately. Chanis later confirmed Blasi would receive three months' salary, \$30,366, as severance.

"Sgt. Blasi expressed his love for Tiburon and described the deep connection he developed during his time serving the community. However, he believes it would be difficult to continue being effective as a police officer in Tiburon," Chanis said. "Based on this belief, Sgt. Blasi offered, and the town has accepted, his voluntary resignation."

Chanis said an independent investigation ordered by the town into the Aug. 21 incident at Main Street clothing store Yema will continue. The town is completing preliminary steps, he said, and expects the investigation to begin mid-September. Attorney Vida Thomas of the Law Offices of Amy Oppenheimer has been hired to lead the investigation.

Many in the community had called for Blasi to resign or be fired following the incident, which occurred about 1 a.m. at the Fountain Plaza business owned by Yema Khalif and Hawi Awash, Tiburon residents who serve as the designers and models for the distinctive, African-inspired athleisure-wear sold in the store. Large posters of the

couple modeling their brand adorn the walls and are visible through the shop's windows and from its doorways.

The couple said they and a friend were sorting inventory and chatting inside the store when a Tiburon officer, later identified as Isaac Madfes, approached. Cellphone and police body-cam video of the incident shows Madfes noting activity inside Main Street businesses is unusual at that hour and asking the trio if they're restocking.

Khalif replies, "No, just doing our thing" and asks if there's a problem. Madfes repeatedly asks why they are there so late, with Khalif each time responding that he doesn't have to explain if Madfes can't articulate why that's a problem. Khalif then requests a supervisor.

No footage shows Madfes call for backup, though he acknowledges to Khalif that his supervisor is already on his way, suggesting backup had already been called before Madfes switched on his camera and approached the store on foot.

The encounter grows heated after Blasi, the supervising sergeant on duty, and Belvedere Officer Jeremy Clark arrive a couple minutes later. Though not visible in the body-cam footage, Clark in the cellphone video filmed from inside the store appears to have his hand on his gun during portions

of the incident.

Khalif suggests that without an explanation of the problem, the "problem" must be that they're Black, which Blasi denies. Blasi says they're checking on the store because of the hour and demands an explanation of why Khalif is there, saying the officers just want to know whether it's his store.

After Khalif asks four times what happens next if he acknowledges it is, Blasi tells Khalif he "should be grateful." Khalif then acknowledges it's his store, but Blasi presses on, now insisting that Khalif must provide proof of his identity and that he is the owner while disputing Khalif's assertions that he isn't required to.

Under California law, Khalif would only have been required to disclose his identity if he was arrested on suspicion of committing a crime, and at no point — even with an arrest — would he have been required to disclose why he was there.

Madfes ultimately suggests Khalif put his keys in the door, but the interaction ends abruptly when, just as Khalif begins sorting through his key ring, a neighbor yells twice from his balcony across the street, "Hey, that's his store!"

Blasi says, "Thank you sir, that's all I needed to know," and then walks away — without the proof they demanded — though

Madfes lingers behind, once again asking Khalif to put his key in the door. Khalif this time declines, telling Madfes his supervisor has already walked away.

The 6-minute interaction between Blasi and Khalif was recorded by Khalif's friend and was later posted to Yema's Facebook and Instagram accounts. The posts went viral, garnering more than half a million views. The full 11-minute incident was recorded on Madfes' body camera and released by the town.

Community sharply divided

Khalif and Awash have asserted the officers' actions were racially motivated, noting no alarms were activated and no one had called about suspicious activity at the store. The body-cam footage confirms that at least three posters of the couple modeling their clothing line were clearly visible on the wall behind Khalif as he was standing in the doorway talking to police, and that Khalif was dressed the same as the mannequin in the window just feet away.

The couple also said Madfes circled the block in his car three or four times and sat across the street from the shop for about 15 minutes before his body-cam was activated

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In Memoriam

Ida Mae Berg

10/1/35 - 7/20/20

On July 20, 2020, Ida Mae (Hunt) Berg passed peacefully at her home in Tiburon, California, at the age of 84. Ida Mae was born to Flossie E. (Horen) and Glenn W. Hunt on October 1, 1935, in Wesley, South Dakota. In 1940, her family moved near Sacramento, California. Ida Mae graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1957 and had a successful career with Bank of America in San Francisco. On July 19, 1959, Ida Mae married Peter Hoyt Berg, and in 1962 they moved to Tiburon where they lived long, full lives.

Ida Mae began her life on a family farm, where she lived with her parents and older brother, Roswell. At the beginning of World War II, her family moved to Rio Linda where her father became a local insurance agent. While the girl left the farm, the farm didn't leave the girl. Ida Mae spent the weekends working outdoors in her garden and preferred her bed linens line-dried in the sunlight. Her strong work ethic undoubtedly was rooted to the farm.

In 1949, Ida Mae lost her father to a lengthy illness. She would go on and excel as a student, achieving academic recognition and joining various clubs. Ida Mae attended Sacramento Junior College before moving to Los Angeles. At UCLA, she joined the Apparel Club, beginning a lifelong love



of fashion. Ida Mae also became a sister of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women. Following graduation, Ida Mae moved to San Francisco.

She met the man who would become her husband on a blind date. Peter was so smitten with her that he returned the next evening with a bottle of wine for more conversation of art and culture. In 1958, Ida Mae was seriously injured in a car accident in San Francisco and hospitalized. When told only family could visit Ida Mae, Peter proclaimed he was her fiancé, and that is how they became engaged. The following year, they were married.

In 1962, they built their forever home in Tiburon, California. Peter, an architect, designed a mid-century home with sweeping views of San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge, and downtown Tiburon. There, they shared their growing knowledge of California wines and international cuisine with family and friends. The couple were members of the San Francisco Yacht Club. Around town, she

often was seen stylishly dressed in shades of purple. When away from the office or kitchen, Ida Mae could be found running. She began running in the 1980s and competed in many races, including the Bay to Breakers and Race for the Cure.

Ida Mae is survived by her nephew, Steve Beckett of Grosse Point, Michigan; niece Cynthia Quirk of Ennis, Montana; sister-in-law Barbara Beckett of Bozeman, Montana; and sister-in-law Bobby Lou Hunt of Carmichael, California. She was preceded in death by her husband, Peter Hoyt Berg; parents Flossie and Glenn Hunt; brother Roswell B. Hunt; and infant sister Dorothy G. Hunt.

Due to Covid-19, a private funeral service was held.

Phyllis Marie Modrich

With profound sadness we announce the passing of our beautiful, loving, and devoted mother, Phyllis Trieber, on August 24, 2020. Through the lens of her deep faith and with a generous and affectionate heart, she was a friend to all whose lives she touched.

Phyllis Marie Modrich, born December 17th, 1931 was the only child and much adored daughter of Philip and Marie Modrich, owners for many years of the historic Mayes Oyster House, the second oldest continuously operating restaurant in San Francisco. She attended Lincoln High School,



where she met the love of her life, future husband Robert (Bob) Trieber, who preceded her in death in 2008 after 58 years of marriage.

In addition to numerous community volunteer and fundraising activities for the Red Cross, Women's Guild of Marin, PTA, and more, Phyllis was a devout practicing Catholic, attending Mass almost daily until constrained by her ailing health. For more than 50 years Phyllis was an active member of the St. Hilary Church community, teaching catechism in the 1960's and 70's, and later as a Eucharistic minister and choir member for more than 25 years. She was appointed chairperson to the International Affairs Commission for the National Council of Catholic Women and was a Third Order Carmelite Nun, generously donating her time and resources to the Carmelite monastery in San Rafael.

Mrs. Trieber, as she was fondly known by many generations of neighborhood children, was also an active citizen in her

beloved communities of Belvedere/Tiburon, hosting many social and fundraising events over the years and earning a Silver Citizen award for her many contributions. She was an active member of the Belvedere-Tiburon Library, the Corinthian Yacht Club, and a certified docent for the Angel Island Conservancy. Alongside her husband, she for decades assisted him in the apparel industry, first on the manufacturing side for their company Mister Robert, and then on the retail side for their clothing boutiques in San Francisco, Larkspur, and along Main Street in Tiburon.

In between volunteering, raising her family, and helping her husband with his business, she made time to go back to school, earning dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and English from Dominican University at age 53. She so enjoyed her other passions, whether it be her Great Books group, scripture group, writing short stories and poems, or painting, where her faith was always her inspiration.

Phyllis achieved all of this quietly and without need for recognition. She gave tirelessly of herself to her family, her community, her friends, her children's friends, and anyone she met. She embodied and exemplified the Christian values that she practiced by living a life of devotion to others with grace, kindness, and extraordinary style. She was one of a kind in every way and will

be sorely missed by all who crossed her path. May God rest her soul.

She leaves her three beloved children and their spouses, Linda Trieber Lowe of Novato (Thom), Richard Trieber of Novato (Cinder), and Lisa Trieber Fonarow of San Rafael (Bruce); her adored six grandchildren, Molly Lowe Lara (Andres), Annie Lowe, Robert C. Trieber II, Richard R. "R.J." Trieber, and Kira and Amy Fonarow. She also leaves many extended family members, including the Volpe family and her cherished Levinson cousins Diane and Jon, and their three children, Randy (Jackie), Rob (Carmen), and Dani-Sue (Richard) and their loving families.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at St. Hilary Church in Tiburon. The service will be outdoors, with socially distant seating under protective canopies. Masks are required and facilities available for emergency use only. Please arrive early to account for the check-in protocol and please enter St. Hilary via the second entrance (the first right after Hilary Drive).

Phyllis will be laid to rest beside her husband at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in San Rafael at a privately held family ceremony the following week. Memorial gifts in Phyllis' memory can be made to St. Hilary Church, 761 Hilary Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920.

Sergeant, continued from page 23

when he approached the store on foot.

Community reaction to the incident has been sharply divided. In an Aug. 27 joint Tiburon-Belvedere online community forum, dozens of commenters expressed outrage over the actions of the police, saying Blasi failed to de-escalate the situation and only accepted the word of a white neighbor and calling on local officials to immediately investigate and stamp out racial injustice within the community and bias in policing.

Others wrote letters backing the officers' actions, saying they were doing their jobs by patrolling the downtown area and faulting Khalif for failing to comply with their demands for proof of identity.

The incident also prompted Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 rallies in at the Tiburon Police Department to call for an end to systemic racism and for accountability in policing.

Blasi, who was hired by the Belvedere Police Department in 2017 and joined the Tiburon department in 2019, declined to comment on his resignation, citing the ongoing investigation and referring questions to his attorney, Alison Berry Wilkinson. Wilkinson is the founder of San Rafael-based Berry Wilkinson Law Group, which specializes in representing law-enforcement personnel and police unions, and is one of the designated attorneys for the Tiburon Police Association.

Wilkinson said Blasi "has pledged to cooperate fully with the investigation."

"As someone who has left the Police Department, he is under no legal obligation to do so, but he feels it's the right thing to do," she said.

Tiburon Police Chief Michael Cronin did not respond to a request for comment on Blasi's resignation.

Meanwhile, Khalif in a Sept. 2 interview said he would like to see the town make public Blasi's reasons for resigning and the town's reasons for accepting.

Both Khalif and Awash have encouraged town officials to use the incident as a stepping stone to create meaningful police reform within the community.

"We're just waiting to see how the investigation is going to go and the next steps that the Town Council and everyone else that is in a position of influence is going to do," Khalif said.

News of Blasi's resignation quickly spread on online neighborhood forum Nextdoor.com, where responses ranged from shock to relief.

"Thank you Mr. Blasi for doing the right thing," wrote Ruby Monte. "Your ability to police this community safely has clearly been compromised by the incident. This is the best for everyone."

Tiburon resident Emilia Hagerman said she was saddened because Blasi was "doing his job diligently."

"He didn't have to lose his job," she wrote. "This incident

could have turned into a teachable moment for him and the local police in general. But no, these days no mistakes are allowed."

In response, Tiburon resident Yanai Perry said: "The lesson from this 'teachable moment' is that police incompetence and harassment is unacceptable and that we should always expect the utmost behavior from the people who have sworn to serve us."

Two decades in law enforcement

Blasi spent eight years in the U.S. Coast Guard before starting a 20-year career in law enforcement in Marin, including at the Marin County Sheriff's Office, where he served as a SWAT team leader, terrorism-liaison officer and rescue-boat operator for 17 years.

In 2003, three years into his career with the Sheriff's Office, Blasi was one of several officers on the scene when a 47-year-old man named Cary Grime was hogtied during a Novato arrest. Grime eventually lost consciousness in jail and died in a hospital two days later.

Grime reportedly had alcohol and numerous drugs in his system at the time of his arrest and was found to have a pre-existing heart condition that may have led to his death.

A wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Grime's family was settled, with no admission of fault, for nearly \$1 million.

After that, Blasi, a Massachusetts native, continued working for the county sheriff until he retired as a sergeant and joined the Belvedere Police Department in 2017.

He was hired as an officer by the Tiburon Police Department in June 2019, earning an annual salary of \$99,888 with an additional \$3,900 in education pay, for \$103,788 plus benefits. Two weeks later he was promoted to supervising sergeant at an annual salary of \$114,564, plus the \$3,900 in education pay and \$3,000 shift-differential, or \$121,464 plus benefits, the figure used to calculate his severance.

In addition to law enforcement, Blasi has a masters certification in intuition medicine and has taught mediation and mindfulness classes at Three Trees Marin in San Anselmo. In a 2017 interview with The Ark, Blasi said meditation played a large role in his own "spiritual seasoning" that eventually led him to police work on the Tiburon Peninsula.

"I'm a firm believer (that) if you're paying attention, your path will get shown to you," he said. "It showed me down to here, in no uncertain terms."

In that same interview, conducted when Blasi was hired by Belvedere police, he said he was excited to start a new chapter of his career in Belvedere, where "people are actually happy to see you."

"Instead of the thin blue line, where it's a them-and-us kind of thing, now I get to do the kind of policing where this is my community," Blasi said. "I get to be involved here, I get to know people's names ... instead of (interactions) always having to end up in handcuffs. It doesn't always have to go that way."



Blasi

Critics of the encounter with Khalif specifically note that Tiburon police should have already known the owners of the shop, which has been open since February and which is frequently staffed by the couple.

The sentiment also contrasts with others expressed by Blasi on question-and-answer forum Quora, where he has maintained an active presence over the past several years and frequently responded to both meditation- and law-enforcement-related questions as recently as February.

In one response, Blasi said it's often not the officer who sets the tone of an interaction, but rather the citizen.

"If they want to be adversarial, that's exactly how it's going to be," he wrote. "If they're respectful and treat the officer with dignity, more times than not that's only going to benefit you in the long run."

In another post, Blasi posited that the media's portrayal of police has led people to be intentionally confrontational and adversarial "with the premeditated intent of instigating situations with police officers" that lure police into using excessive force, abusing their authority or "behaving in a manner that's unfair and unprofessional."

In another post, Blasi is asked what kind of behavior can get someone in trouble with the police, to which he responded, in part, "failing to identify yourself or providing ID when directed by an officer."

He also wrote he wouldn't recommend anyone become a police officer in today's environment, citing "media and social-media scrutiny, internet armchair quarterbacks evaluating every real-time decision (and) unqualified and incompetent civilian-oversight committees that are usually someone's bulls— political agenda."

In that same answer, Blasi also acknowledges officers' increasing job responsibilities and personal limitations, using the same examples that social-justice groups cite in calls to reallocate some funding away from police and toward unarmed, specialized responders.

"The demands and expectations of an average sworn officer are unrealistic and unreasonable," he wrote. "Cops are being held to a standard of expertise in a vast field of professions and areas like negotiations, medical response, mental-health evaluation, civil law, family counseling and juvenile issues. And these are all on top of criminal law, firearms, defensive driving, self-defense, computer skills, investigations, civil rights, case law, evidence law and a dozen other required skill sets that the public expects us to be experts at."

Reporter Hannah Weikel covers the city of Belvedere, as well as crime, courts and public safety issues on the Tiburon Peninsula. Reach her at 415-944-4627.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISING RATES

Fictitious business name statements are \$65 for one business and one registrant, \$5 each additional name, for four weeks; name changes are \$120. Trustee sales start at \$170. The deadline for the next issue is 3 p.m. Thursday. Call 415-435-2652 or email legals@thearknewspaper.com for additional pricing and to place your notice today!

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149399

Notice: This statement expires on 7/31/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:
ELLEN DOUGLAS & ASSOCIATES
14 STADIUM WAY
KENTFIELD, CA 94904
ELLEN DOUGLAS
14 STADIUM WAY
KENTFIELD, CA 94904
This business is conducted by an individual
/s/Ellen Douglas, CEO
14 Stadium Way
Kentfield, CA 94904
FILED: July 31, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk

By: O. Labato
Ark Legal 3595 Aug 19, 26, Sept 2, 9, 20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149431

Notice: This statement expires on 8/4/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:
NORTH SEA TOUR & TRAVEL
458 GREENWOOD BEACH RD.
TIBURON, CA 94920
SIDSEL MOLLER
458 GREENWOOD BEACH RD.
TIBURON, CA 94920
This business is conducted by an individual
/s/Sidsel Moller, Owner
458 Greenwood Beach Rd.

Tiburon, CA 94920
FILED: August 4, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: S. Oliva
Ark Legal 3596 Aug 19, 26, Sept 2, 9, 20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149547

Notice: This statement expires on 8/20/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from expiration.

The following person is doing business as:
EP CONVEYANCE
100 CIELO LN.
NOVATO, CA 94949
JOSEPH SOLIS
100 CIELO LN.
NOVATO, CA 94949

This business is conducted by an individual
/s/Joseph Solis, Owner
100 Cielo Ln.
Novato, CA 94949
FILED: August 20, 2020
Shelly Scott
Marin County Clerk
By: J. M
Ark Legal 3600 Aug 26, Sept 2, 9, 16, 2020

TOWN OF TIBURON Notice of RESCHEDULED Public Hearing MILL VALLEY REFUSE SERVICE RATE INCREASE

Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Tiburon Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed rate increase by Mill Valley Refuse Service for refuse

collection and recycling services on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Consistent with the Marin County Public Health Officer's May 18, 2020 legal order to shelter at home until further notice, and Executive Orders No. N-25-20 and N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the Town Council meeting will not be physically open to the public and all council members will be teleconferencing into the meeting. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can access the meeting by following live at a video link or conference call number that will be provided on the agenda in advance of the meeting.
Public comment is invited. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may send a letter to the Town Council at 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon CA 94920 or email

your comments to the Town Clerk at lstefani@townoftiburon.org. Copies of the Mill Valley Refuse Service proposal will be available prior to the meeting on the Town's website (www.townoftiburon.org). Contact Suzanne Creekmore, Director of Administrative Services, at (415)435-7359 for more information.
Lea Stefani
Town Clerk
8/27/2020
Ark Legal 3602 Sept 2, 9, 16, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT NO. 2020149419

Notice: This statement expires on 8/3/2025. A new FBN statement must be filed no more than 40 days from

See LEGALS, PAGE 27



Look what America NOTICED!

- New businesses
- Property auctions
- Public hearings
- Local tax changes
- Adoptions
- Name changes

Read your Legal Notices.