

Statement from Needham Select Board Chair Matt Borrelli on Pending Legal Action

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

This is an update on the status of the lawsuit filed by Mr. Marvin Henry against the Town of Needham and several members of the Needham Police Department.

The suit was filed by Mr. Henry's attorneys on July 7, 2021 in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

On September 30, 2021, Judge Allison Burroughs issued a Scheduling Order with a timetable for the future handling of the litigation.

Pursuant to the Scheduling Order, motions to add parties or amend the pleadings must be filed by February 1, 2022, and all fact discovery (not including experts) must be completed by May 2, 2022.

The Court will then hold a Status Conference on May 3, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. to set deadlines for expert discovery and the filing of dispositive motions, if needed.

The Select Board acknowledges that this is a serious matter and that there is public concern regarding the allegations raised in the lawsuit. The Select Board believes that Mr. Henry did nothing wrong, he was mistakenly identified as a suspect in a shoplifting complaint and detained at the scene. Because Mr. Henry has filed suit against the Town, the Town's ability to comment is necessarily limited. The Board does not expect to make any further statement before May 2022.

The Select Board reaffirms its support of the men and women of the Needham Police Department, its commitment to improving police policies and practices, and its commitment that Needham is a just and equitable community for all.