



## Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager  
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 24, 2020

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## **Needham Will Engage Independent Party to Investigate Claims Made Against Needham Police**

NEEDHAM – Friday, July 24, 2020 – The Town Manager announced today that the Town will engage an independent investigator to examine the facts and circumstances of claims made this week against members of the Needham Police Department stemming from an alleged shoplifting incident at CVS on Highland Avenue in Needham on January 25, 2020.

The police responded to a call made by a CVS employee alleging two individuals were shoplifting from the store. The employee identified one of those individuals as a black male. Police arrived at the scene while the employee was still on the phone with dispatch. Mr. Marvin Henry, a black male who had been inside the CVS store during the alleged incident, was identified outside the store by the CVS employee as one of the alleged shoplifters. Police detained Mr. Henry for questioning before concluding there was not enough evidence to arrest him. Mr. Henry was never charged, and he is not considered a suspect in any ongoing investigation.

In the interest of a fair and transparent investigation into claims made by attorneys for Mr. Henry, the Town will hire an independent investigator to determine whether officers acted appropriately during the incident. The Town will also ask the investigator to recommend any changes that may be necessary to improve police practices, policies or procedures related to this incident.

The Town received a [letter](#) from Mr. Henry's attorneys on Monday, July 20, 2020 detailing his claims against the Department. In response, the Town released the January incident [report](#) on Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Additional materials, including records requests and a recording of the January 25, 2020 phone call placed by the CVS employee can be found [here](#).

The Town will engage the investigator and will make public the results of the investigation when it has concluded.

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