

PUBLIC NOTICE – LEWISTON POLICE OFFICERS OUT OF UNIFORM AS PART OF LABOR ACTION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEWISTON: The labor agreement between the City of Lewiston and the Maine Association of Police representing our police patrol unit expired on June 30, 2018. Negotiations with this group have been on-going for some time, and the City and Association are currently involved in contract mediation via the Maine Labor Relations Board.

It has come to our attention that the uniformed members of the association are planning to bring their displeasure with the lack of a contract to the attention of the public by violating the Department's dress policy by wearing green t-shirts with the word POLICE spelled out on them rather than the mandated police uniform.

These t-shirts have not been issued or approved by the Police Department, and we are concerned that, since they are not consistent with our standard uniform, members of the public may not recognize individuals dressed in this manner as legitimate police officers resulting in confusion that may result in safety issues for both the public and the officers.

While we recognize and support the rights of our employees to make their concerns known to our residents, the potential safety issues raised by this action will leave the City with no choice but to implement the City's system of progressive discipline.

Should this labor action continue for any period of time, we urge members of the public to recognize these out of uniform officers as legitimate in order to avoid any unfortunate misunderstandings. Police Department Supervisors are continuing to be in police uniform. If anyone has any question about the validity of an officer, they can request that a police supervisor come to the location or can call 911 seeking verification. ###