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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

STATE OF HAWAII

ARTHUR "JOE" LOGAN,) CIVIL NO.
) (Other Civil Action)
Plaintiff,)
) COMPLAINT; DEMAND FOR JURY
vs.) TRIAL
)
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, a)
municipal corporation; RICHARD)
BLANGIARDI, in his individual and official)
capacity as Mayor of the City and County of)
Honolulu; JOHN DOES 1-10; JANE DOES 1-)
10; DOE CORPORATIONS 1-10; DOE)
PARTNERSHIPS 1-10; DOE)
UNINCORPORATED ORGANIZATIONS)
1-10; and DOE GOVERNMENTAL)
AGENCIES 1-10,)
)
Defendants.)
)
)
)

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW Plaintiff ARTHUR "JOE" LOGAN [hereinafter referred to as "CHIEF LOGAN"], by and through his counsel, ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA and JOSEPH T. ROSENBAUM, and complains against the above-named Defendants alleges and avers as follows:

I. NATURE OF CASE

1. The basis of this case is, *inter alia*, whistleblower retaliation and intentional infliction of emotional distress against CHIEF LOGAN at his employment with the City and County of Honolulu.

II. JURISDICTION

2. CHIEF LOGAN brings this action pursuant, including, but not limited to HRS Chapter 378 to obtain full and complete relief and to redress the tortious conduct described herein.

3. At all times relevant herein, CHIEF LOGAN was an employee of the City and County of Honolulu Police Department (“HPD”) and a resident of the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i.

4. At all times relevant herein, Defendant CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU (“the City”) is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Hawai‘i.

5. Defendant, RICHARD BLANGIARDI, [hereinafter referred to as "MAYOR BLANGIARDI"] is employed by the City as the Mayor of Honolulu and was at all relevant times, domiciled in the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i and thus a citizen and resident of the State of Hawai‘i. CHIEF LOGAN sues MAYOR BLANGIARDI both individually and in his official capacity. MAYOR BLANGIARDI will be included when referenced as “Defendant” or “Defendants”, unless excluded and as the context implies.

6. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, Defendants were acting within the course and scope of their duties as employees, agents and/or representatives of the City; therefore, Defendants are liable for the intentional and/or tortious

and/or wrongful conduct of said employees, agents and/or representatives pursuant to the doctrine of Respondeat Superior and/or principles of Agency.

7. Defendants JOHN DOES 1-10, JANE DOES 1-10, DOE CORPORATIONS 1-10, DOE PARTNERSHIPS 1-10, DOE UNINCORPORATED ORGANIZATIONS 1-10, and DOE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES 1-10 are sued herein under fictitious names because their true names, identities and capacities are unknown to CHIEF LOGAN, except that they are connected in some manner with Defendants, and are/were agents, servants, employees, employers, representatives, co-venturers, associates, or independent contractors of Defendants herein, and were acting with the permission and consent and within the course and scope of said agency and employment and/or were in some manner presently unknown to CHIEF LOGAN engaged in the activities alleged herein and/or were in some way responsible for the injuries or damages to CHIEF LOGAN, which activities were a proximate cause of said injuries or damages to CHIEF LOGAN. CHIEF LOGAN has made good faith and diligent efforts to identify said Defendants, including interviewing individuals with knowledge of the claims herein. At such time as their true names and identities become known, CHIEF LOGAN will amend his Complaint accordingly.

8. All events done by the City described herein occurred within the City and County of Honolulu, and within the jurisdiction and venue of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Background and CHIEF LOGAN's Tenure

9. CHIEF LOGAN served as Chief of Police for the HPD from approximately June 2022 through July 2025, reporting to the Honolulu Police Commission ("HPC") pursuant to the Honolulu City Charter.

10. Throughout his tenure, CHIEF LOGAN consistently adhered to federal regulations, constitutional requirements, and legal constraints governing police operations, often explaining these limitations to MAYOR BLANGIARDI when MAYOR BLANGIARDI demanded actions that would violate applicable law.

Pattern of Illegal Demands and Conflicts

11. Beginning in 2022 and continuing through 2025, MAYOR BLANGIARDI repeatedly demanded that CHIEF LOGAN and HPD take actions that would violate federal and state law and constitutional requirements.

12. Specifically, MAYOR BLANGIARDI repeatedly demanded that HPD provide media organizations with access to encrypted police radios, despite federal CJIS policy and FBI regulations and Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 138 prohibiting such access to protect personally identifiable information (PII) of victims, witnesses, and suspects.

13. CHIEF LOGAN objected to these demands, refused to do as demanded and reported to MAYOR BLANGIARDI that such actions would be illegal.

14. CHIEF LOGAN consistently explained to MAYOR BLANGIARDI that the P25 radio frequencies are encrypted and under the federal rules and state law those outside the department do not have a right to hear and cannot listen in on Personal Identifiable Information (PII) such as Social Security Numbers and Dates of Birth of alleged offenders.

15. MAYOR BLANGIARDI also repeatedly demanded that HPD remove homeless individuals from Waikiki and Chinatown in violation of constitutional requirements established in the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case *Martin v. Boise*.

16. CHIEF LOGAN objected to and refused MAYOR BLANGIARDI's demand to violate the law related to the homeless in Waikiki and Chinatown.

17. CHIEF LOGAN explained to MAYOR BLANGIARDI that there are laws such as *Martin v. Boise* where police just can't move homeless people out of an area.

18. CHIEF LOGAN explained to MAYOR BLANGIARDI that CHIEF LOGAN did not want to put any HPD officer in the position of being individually sued and losing their house because MAYOR BLANGIARDI wanted the homeless to be cleared out of the area.

19. When CHIEF LOGAN explained legal constraints, MAYOR BLANGIARDI would become frustrated and argumentative and would state such things as he “didn’t care about that” and commented to CHIEF LOGAN: “You can come up with legal ways to make this happen.”

20. In late 2023, CHIEF LOGAN refused to bring HPD Public Information Officers (“PIOs”) to MAYOR BLANGIARDI's office for direct criticism, explaining that performance discussions should be handled through proper channels as these were civil servants and laws govern their employment and discipline.

21. Following these protected activities, MAYOR BLANGIARDI displayed a clear pattern of antagonism toward CHIEF LOGAN.

22. In January 2024, MAYOR BLANGIARDI was "very upset" with CHIEF LOGAN regarding a lawsuit and accused him of withholding information, despite CHIEF LOGAN's truthful explanation that he was not aware of the allegations in the lawsuit.

23. MAYOR BLANGIARDI also demanded that CHIEF LOGAN fire or remove some of the HPD’s Assistant Chiefs, claiming they were not supporting CHIEF LOGAN's goals. Again, CHIEF LOGAN refused to violate the law by summarily firing command staff.

Escalating Retaliation and Threats

24. MAYOR BLANGIARDI's frustration with CHIEF LOGAN's adherence to legal requirements escalated into a pattern of retaliation and intimidation.

25. In September 2024, after an HPD internal survey was released, MAYOR BLANGIARDI told two HPC Commissioners, who supported the internal survey and its release, that he was going to force CHIEF LOGAN’s resignation.

26. MAYOR BLANGIARDI attempted to prevent the release of the HPD internal survey, directing that HPD not release the survey and worked with the City’s Corporation Counsel to find ways to avoid releasing public information.

27. When Corporation Counsel determined the survey must be released, MAYOR BLANGIARDI was extremely upset, and told CHIEF LOGAN, 'If you had asked me I would have told you not to do such a survey.'

28. In late 2024 and early 2025, both of HPD's civil service PIOs resigned and retired.

29. In or about February to April 2025, when CHIEF LOGAN went to push the City's HR to hire the new permanent PIOs, MAYOR BLANGIARDI called CHIEF LOGAN and told CHIEF LOGAN that his team would pick who the HPD PIOs would be because CHIEF LOGAN lacked the necessary qualifications to know what good PIOs are.

30. CHIEF LOGAN pushed back against this and stated, "You are trying to micromanage the department."

31. MAYOR BLANGIARDI became upset and told CHIEF LOGAN, "I knew you were going to say that and I hate this, I am not trying to micromanage your department, you don't have the 40 years of experience my team and I have when it comes to the media."

32. CHIEF LOGAN told MAYOR BLANGIARDI, "No, I don't, but I know what type of persons I am looking for."

33. In or about May 2025, at the Districts 1, 3 and 5 Townhall meeting, MAYOR BLANGIARDI's Communications Director, Scott Humber, said that all PIO hires must go through the Mayor's office and they will all be contracted positions not permanent civil service. CHIEF LOGAN believes this is a blatant violation of Civil Service rules.

34. CHIEF LOGAN objected to Mr. Humber regarding HPD having the PIO as contracted positions.

The Coercive Resignation Demand

35. On May 28, 2025, MAYOR BLANGIARDI summoned CHIEF LOGAN to what was supposed to be a regular weekly meeting, instructing him to "come alone" and later adding the Managing Director to the meeting.

36. During this meeting, MAYOR BLANGIARDI stated: "You knew this was coming, I am telling you to resign, or I will make it very difficult for you and your family, and you know I can."

37. CHIEF LOGAN took this as a clear threat against himself and his family and became distraught causing severe emotional distress.

38. MAYOR BLANGIARDI knew or should have known that he did not have the legal authority to fire the Chief as that was the HPC's responsibility per the Honolulu City Charter.

39. CHIEF LOGAN knew MAYOR BLANGIARDI had a long history as an executive in news media in Honolulu prior to becoming the Mayor of Honolulu and still had direct connections to news media outlets in Honolulu.

40. CHIEF LOGAN knew that MAYOR BLANGIARDI had a history of using the media, and the anonymity of being a media source of information, to create a false and highly offensive narrative against another high-ranking member of the City's departments to force him out of his employment with the City.

41. CHIEF LOGAN was also aware that MAYOR BLANGIARDI could use the police union to create false claims against CHIEF LOGAN.

42. MAYOR BLANGIARDI further threatened: "You don't want to drag the department and yourself through the drama."

43. When CHIEF LOGAN explained why he should remain the Chief and defended his leadership, MAYOR BLANGIARDI acknowledged that CHIEF LOGAN was "very persuasive" but stated, "I've made up my mind, you need to resign."

44. MAYOR BLANGIARDI specifically told CHIEF LOGAN that he was to "resign not retire".

45. CHIEF LOGAN knowing MAYOR BLANGIARDI's explosive and threatening behavior avoided any further discussion and told MAYOR BLANGIARDI he would speak to his family about resigning/retiring and walked out of the meeting.

46. Immediately after the May 28, 2025 meeting, CHIEF LOGAN texted, called, and spoke with three HPC Commissioners to inform them that the Mayor was forcing him to resign by threatening him and his family and that CHIEF LOGAN wouldn't want the department dragged through the drama.

47. The HPC Commissioners understood the pressure that MAYOR BLANGIARDI was putting on CHIEF LOGAN with his threat.

48. CHIEF LOGAN also informed his private secretaries of his predicament with what MAYOR BLANGIARDI's ultimatum was.

49. CHIEF LOGAN told them he was being forced out.

50. On May 29, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. CHIEF LOGAN contacted the City's Managing Director and asked him, "What did I do wrong?" The Managing Director stated, "Nothing, that's just the way he is, he wants what he wants."

Premeditated Plan to Remove CHIEF LOGAN

51. Evidence demonstrates that MAYOR BLANGIARDI's actions were part of a premeditated plan to remove CHIEF LOGAN prior to his annual evaluation being completed in 2025 and the Honolulu City Council reintroducing Bill 46, which will force HPD to provide dispatch communications to the media.

52. MAYOR BLANGIARDI wanted CHIEF LOGAN removed from his position prior to CHIEF LOGAN's annual evaluation being completed in 2025 because there would be nothing in the evaluation to remove CHIEF LOGAN for cause.

53. Based on information and belief, on May 30, 2025, two days after threatening CHIEF LOGAN, but before CHIEF LOGAN had made any decision, MAYOR BLANGIARDI contacted County of Hawai'i Police Chief Ben Moszkowicz and asked if he would be the interim Chief and the next HPD Chief.

54. Based on information and belief, MAYOR BLANGIARDI told others at the City that CHIEF LOGAN's resignation was a "done deal" even before CHIEF LOGAN formally decided to resign.

Forced Resignation and Continued Retaliation

55. On June 2, 2025, under duress from MAYOR BLANGIARDI's threats against him and his family, CHIEF LOGAN met with MAYOR BLANGIARDI and stated he would retire to avoid having himself, his family and the department dragged through the drama.

56. When CHIEF LOGAN requested to stay until a new Chief was selected or until August 1st, MAYOR BLANGIARDI stated, "No, it has to be the end of June."

57. During a conversation CHIEF LOGAN had with an HPC Commissioner, when the Commissioner inquired why CHIEF LOGAN resigned, CHIEF LOGAN informed the Commissioner that "I was threatened by the Mayor." When the Commissioner asked, "Did he force you to resign?" CHIEF LOGAN replied, "Yes, he threatened me and my family."

58. On June 2, 2025, MAYOR BLANGIARDI insisted to CHIEF LOGAN that it was "a resignation" not retirement, but he immediately announced that CHIEF LOGAN was "retiring" and that Ben Moszkowicz would be the interim chief at a 4:00 PM press conference.

59. On June 2, 2025, MAYOR BLANGIARDI arranged for media to be present when CHIEF LOGAN exited his office, forcing CHIEF LOGAN to endure what a police commissioner from Hawai'i Island, Chair Robinson, described as "the perp walk, so to speak, with the news camera set up."

60. CHIEF LOGAN did not expect the media to be waiting outside the Mayor's office with a camera pointed at CHIEF LOGAN.

61. CHIEF LOGAN was shocked and humiliated.

62. In subsequent public statements, MAYOR BLANGIARDI made misleading statements about the circumstances of CHIEF LOGAN's resignation, claiming that "Joe Logan walked in here and told me he decided he was going to retire." MAYOR BLANGIARDI failed to mention the May 28, 2025, meeting in which he threatened CHIEF LOGAN.

63. These statements were misleading, as MAYOR BLANGIARDI had threatened CHIEF LOGAN and his family and demanded his resignation.

64. There was no implied assertion that CHIEF LOGAN could remain at HPD. It was: "You are going to resign and your last day is the end of June." There was no negotiating or discussion.

65. On June 2, 2025, County of Hawai'i Police Chief Ben Moszkowicz issued a letter/announcement to County of Hawai'i Police Department resigning as their Chief, stating his intention to be Interim Chief at HPD.

66. In said letter Chief Moszkowicz wrote that MAYOR BLANGIARDI contacted him three (3) days prior, which was before CHIEF LOGAN agreed to retire, informing Chief Moszkowicz that CHIEF LOGAN would be unexpectedly retiring.

67. Because MAYOR BLANGIARDI through his actions, without the power to appoint Chief Moszkowicz as the Interim Chief of HPD, enticed Chief Moszkowicz to resign from his position at the County of Hawai'i Police Department thinking that he would be selected as the Interim Chief at HPD, two counties in the State of Hawai'i lost their police chiefs.

68. These actions have decreased the public confidence in the government of the City and County of Honolulu and in effect have reduced public safety.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF HRS 378 PART V WHISTLEBLOWERS' PROTECTION ACT

69. CHIEF LOGAN incorporates paragraphs 1 through 68 as though fully set forth herein.

70. The treatment of CHIEF LOGAN, as described aforesaid, evidences retaliation against CHIEF LOGAN at the City for reporting and objecting to illegal practices.

An employer shall not retaliate against an employee based on their whistleblowing under HRS, § 378-62 which states in pertinent part as follows:

§ 378-62: An employer shall not discharge, threaten or otherwise discriminate against an employee...because:

- (1) The employee... reports or is about to report to the employer...verbally or in writing, a violation or suspected violation of:
 - (A) A law, rule, ordinance, or regulation, adopted pursuant to the law of this State, a political subdivision of the State or the United States;

71. The City's conduct as described above is a violation of HRS § 378-62(1)(A).

72. The aforementioned acts and/or conduct of the City entitles CHIEF LOGAN to damages as provided by law. As a direct and proximate result of said unlawful employment practices CHIEF LOGAN has suffered extreme mental anguish, outrage and great humiliation about his future and his ability to support himself, as well as painful embarrassment among his relatives and friends, damage to his good reputation, disruption of his personal life, loss of enjoyment of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life and other general damages in an amount which meets the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

COUNT II

TERMINATION IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY (*PARNAR CLAIM*)

73. CHIEF LOGAN incorporates paragraphs 1 through 72 as though fully set forth herein.

74. CHIEF LOGAN's forced resignation violated clearly mandated public policy, including: a. the public policy that only the HPC has the power to remove the Chief of HPD per the Honolulu City Charter; b. the public policy requiring adherence to federal regulations protecting personally identifiable information; c. the public policy requiring compliance with constitutional requirements regarding treatment of homeless individuals; d. the public policy protecting employees who refuse to violate the law.

75. The aforementioned acts and/or conduct of the City entitles CHIEF LOGAN to damages as provided by law. As a direct and proximate result of said unlawful employment practices CHIEF LOGAN has suffered extreme mental anguish, outrage and great humiliation about his future and his ability to support himself, as well as painful embarrassment among his relatives and friends, damage to his good reputation, disruption of his personal life, loss of enjoyment of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life and other general damages in an amount which meets the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

COUNT III INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

76. CHIEF LOGAN incorporates paragraphs 1 through 75 as though fully set forth herein.

77. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant MAYOR BLANGIARDI acted willfully and/or intentionally and/or recklessly and as a direct and proximate cause of such willful, intentional and/or reckless conduct, CHIEF LOGAN suffered and continues to suffer severe emotional distress.

78. MAYOR BLANGIARDI's treatment of CHIEF LOGAN, as aforesaid, constitutes extreme and outrageous behavior which exceeds all bounds usually tolerated by society.

79. MAYOR BLANGIARDI's acts against CHIEF LOGAN were done with malice and/or with the intent to cause, and/or with the knowledge that it would cause severe mental distress to CHIEF LOGAN.

80. As a direct and proximate result of MAYOR BLANGIARDI's wrongful, unlawful, and illegal acts and/or omissions, CHIEF LOGAN suffered and continues to suffer emotional and/or mental distress, thereby entitling him to relief related thereto in an amount which meets the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, CHIEF LOGAN respectfully prays that this Court enter judgment granting the following relief on all causes of action:

A. That this Court enter a declaratory judgment that the City and MAYOR BLANGIARDI have violated the rights of CHIEF LOGAN;

B. That this Court award CHIEF LOGAN special damages for the aforementioned Counts including but not limited to back pay, front pay, and all employee benefits that would have been enjoyed by him in amounts which shall be shown at trial;

C. That this Court award CHIEF LOGAN compensatory damages, proximately caused by the City's tortious and abusive conduct, including, but not limited to, general damages for the intentional infliction of mental or emotional distress, assessed against the City, all in an amount to be proven at trial;

D. As the City and MAYOR BLANGIARDI's treatment of CHIEF LOGAN, as aforesaid, constitutes extreme and outrageous behavior which exceeds all bounds usually tolerated by decent society. In committing the above acts and omissions, the City and MAYOR BLANGIARDI acted wantonly and/or oppressively and/or with such malice as implies a spirit of

mischief or criminal indifference to civil obligations and/or there has been some willful misconduct that demonstrates that entire want of care which would raise the presumption of a conscious indifference to consequences, justifying an award of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount to be proven at trial, that this Court award CHIEF LOGAN exemplary or punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial;

E. That this Court award CHIEF LOGAN reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit herein as well as prejudgment and post-judgment interest;

F. That this Court order appropriate injunctive relief;

G. That this Court retain jurisdiction over this action until the City has fully complied with the order of this Court and that this Court require the City to file such reports as may be necessary to secure compliance;

H. That this Court award CHIEF LOGAN such other and further relief both legal and equitable as this Court deems just, necessary and proper under the circumstances.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 31, 2025.

/s/ Joseph T. Rosenbaum
JOSEPH T. ROSENBAUM
ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA
Attorneys for Plaintiff
ARTHUR "JOE" LOGAN

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)
Defendants.)
)
)
)
)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury on all issues so triable herein.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 31, 2025.

/s/ Joseph T. Rosenbaum
JOSEPH T. ROSENBAUM
ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA
Attorneys for Plaintiff
ARTHUR "JOE" LOGAN