



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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STATEMENT FROM THE PANTON SELECTBOARD CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF SHERIFF PETER NEWTON

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton was arrested on charges of sexual assault, unlawful restraint, and domestic assault. Later that day, he was arraigned and released on a \$100,000 bond. Conditions of Newton's release included requirements that he not possess firearms and not engage in "law enforcement activities."

Upon Newton's arrest, Addison County High Bailiff Dave Silberman called on Newton to resign immediately from office, stating that it is "simply impossible for Sheriff Newton to continue serving the community in a law enforcement capacity under the cloud of these very serious charges." Newton has refused to resign his post.

We, the members of the Town of Panton Selectboard, also call on Sheriff Newton to resign as Sheriff immediately. We have lost confidence in Sheriff's Newton's ability to lead the Addison County Sheriff's Department.

As an individual, Sheriff Newton deserves a complete investigation and legal due process. As a law enforcement officer however, the severity of the charges, circumstances of the allegations, and conditions of his release are not conducive to his ability to lead the Sheriff's office safely and justly, even in a removed administrative capacity.

For the safety of our Panton constituents and all residents of Addison County, we must have law enforcement officers who are trustworthy and above reproach. For the safety of Addison County and its residents, we urge Peter Newton to resign as sheriff effective immediately.

Statement adopted by the Panton Selectboard, July 11, 2022.