



VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP POLC UNION

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

IMPOSES COVID 19 VACCINATION ON GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

On June 15, 2021 the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees met, voted, and approved an agenda item to mandate that every Van Buren Township employee take the COVID 19 vaccination as a condition of their employment. The next day, June 16, 2021 the township human resource director sent an email that stated the aforementioned motion was approved by the township board, was a mandate, and that if any employee does not comply they would be placed on a two week suspension and subsequently terminated.

On June 21, 2021, both the police and fire unions met with the three full time elected officials regarding this matter to stress our concerns of potentially losing police, firefighters, and dispatchers due this decision and that could cripple safety for our community. It was determined at that time that the board would delay the mandate to August 16, 2021 with the purpose for the board to review their decision and have further discussion amongst themselves. This would further go past the July 20, 2021 board meeting in which the township board could re-vote on this mandate.

On July 20, 2021 the Charter Township Van Buren Board of Trustee Meeting took place. A listed agenda item on the agenda was "discussion on, and to consider a re-vote of Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccinations." Both the Police and Fire Union Presidents spoke and informed the board that this was a change in their work environment and change in conditions of their employment. The board meeting continued and the board disregarded the union's comments and proceeded to vote to continue with the mandatory Covid-19 Vaccinations for employees. The mandatory compliance date being August 16, 2021.

The Township Supervisor spoke at the meeting and stated the Federal Government, State of Michigan, or Wayne County, has not required their workforce to be mandated to take the COVID 19 Vaccination. In addition the Township Supervisor stated at the meeting that he called the Municipal Townships Association and the County of Western Wayne and both entities stated to their knowledge we will be **the first government to impose this mandatory COVID 19 vaccinations to government employees in the State of Michigan.**

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