

Orange officer fired for Twitter postings

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

Last week Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. fired Officer Hector Rosado for allegedly posting racist remarks on his Twitter social media feed.

Hawkins said that Rosado posted the comments under the “M2daOOSE” Twitter account. He said that the “N-word” that was “blatantly” used by Rosado caused his removal from duty on Nov. 7. Accordingly, Hawkins said that Rosado was charged with and found guilty of violating the Orange Police Department’s Code of Conduct. Specifically, he said that violated section 3.1.6 - Conduct on and Off Duty and 4:2.2f - Criticizing of Official Acts or Orders.

Rosado has reportedly hired a lawyer, Charles Sciarra, to represent him as he fights to regain his job. In a published statement, Sciarra said that his client has a clean record with no significant disciplinary actions having been taken against him.

Sciarra also said that he believes Hawkins actions were retaliation for Rosado’s criticism of his administration’s policies. He also

said that the mayor is going to cost Orange taxpayers money as a result of pending litigation.

Hawkins said that might be the case, but for now he believes that he did the right thing by firing Rosado.

“It is very disappointing to hear that one of our officers was openly involved in offensive, insubordinate and racially charged behavior in the public online chat room forum known as Twitter, where he was known to be a police officer,” Hawkins said. “Many individuals have been offended by the officer’s callous use of the N-word and variations of same. Residents of Orange should rest assured that this type of behavior will not be tolerated and officers will continue to be held to a high standard.”

Hawkins went on to say that Rosado’s act of “direct insubordination” in publicly cursing “the very city for whom he works” is also “of great concern.” He said that behavior shows a “lack of professionalism and ethnic sensitivity.”

“As the mayor of this city, I am not comfortable with having our culturally diverse

city placed in the position that it is to be protected by those who have brazenly disrespected our community, culture and the police uniform in this way,” Hawkins said. “We cannot take the chance that racist remarks be translated into such behavior on the job in the City of Orange Township. Although this conduct is a disgrace, it is not reflective of the good conduct of the vast majority of our officers.”

According to a press release Hawkins issued, on Jan. 26, while in a public chat room forum – Twitter – Rosado allegedly used offensive and unethical language numerous times, specifically the N-word. On the same date, officials allege that Rosado also criticized the actions of the City of Orange.

Police Director John Rappaport stood by Hawkins’ decision to fire Rosado.

“All officers of the Orange Police Department must respect the ethics and standards of their oath,” Rappaport said. “The administration has taken corrective action by terminating the involved employee and it’s time to move forward. This particular breach is not reflective of the standards that are set by this department.”