

# Dispatcher claims he was replaced after filing grievance

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The Labor Relations Board hearing is scheduled for Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m., in Concord.

The union alleges Consentino confronted Lorden after he found out a grievance had been filed and stated that he would take away Lorden's hours and take him off his assignment as dispatcher on Saturday day shifts. According to the union, Lorden was subsequently replaced as the dispatcher, an assignment he had held for six years, and his schedule was shifted to prevent him from getting extra hours.

A pre-hearing memorandum states the union also alleges that on July 7, 2004, Consentino ordered Lorden to step outside and told him "the gloves were off and that he (Consentino) was going to get him (Lorden)." On July 8, 2004, the union said Lorden received a written reprimand from Consentino that alleged Lorden had neglected his duties as director of the evidence room, and Lorden was removed from that assignment and his position as firearms instructor.

Consentino denied ever threatening Lorden and, according to the memorandum, stated the shifting of hours and removal from assignments were all warranted.

"The allegations brought forward by Officer Lorden are all untrue," said Consentino, in an interview this week. "Those (allegations) will all be resolved in the hearing."

The town Code of Ethics Committee exonerated Consentino in June of the charges brought forth by Acciard and former Selectman Barbara Stewart. Acciard then appealed the decision to Superior Court, seeking a judge's order that Consentino not vote as a selectman on issues involving the police department or elderly affairs.

"It's our position that all the issues have been addressed by the appropriate body," said town attorney Sumner Kalman.

Consentino said the controversy surrounding him is nothing new and he expects both the trial and hearing to fall in his favor.

"Anyone else, you can tell them to come up and take a number," said Consentino. "It's all right ... I've got broad shoulders."

"People elected me to do a job, and that's exactly what I'm doing for the next year and a half."

## SPECIAL INVITE

Last week, Consentino was one of four police chiefs of the more than 200 municipalities in New Hampshire to be invited to newly elected Gov. John Lynch's inauguration in Concord. Consentino said he did not know why he was selected to go, but it was quite the experience to sit with people like former New Hampshire governors John H. Sununu, Steve Merrill and Craig Benson.

"I really thought it was quite the honor," said Consentino.