



## ***Chesterfield Fire Company***

**Public Information Officer**

**1606 Hartford-New London Tpke**

**Oakdale, CT 06370**

**1(860)326-8583**

**March 28, 2023**

### ***Fire Service Public Information Officer Vindicated in Photography Case***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NORWICH, CONNECTICUT**

**On March 24, 2023, Superior Court judge Arthur C. Hadden dismissed all charges against Chesterfield Fire Company Public Information Officer Steven Frischling.**

**Frischling was arrested in March, 2021, for capturing photos in response to a motor vehicle collision, and publishing images of the incident to Fire Company social media. The judge dismissed the case over the prosecutor's objection.**

**The statute used to prosecute Frischling prohibits first responders from taking photos "other than in the performance of his or her duties." Frischling, who serves as the Public Information Officer for The Chesterfield Fire Company, has always maintained that the photographs taken were consistent with his job duties and FEMA guidelines for Public Information Officers.**

**"We are of course pleased with the judgement," said Mario Cerame, attorney for Frischling. "Publishing photos like this lets the public know that the Fire Department is an authoritative source for what is going on in an emergency in the community. It enhances government transparency and it is important for the Chesterfield Fire Company, in particular as part of recruitment and public awareness," Cerame continued. "This case should never have been brought. This two-year fight was an epic waste of taxpayer dollars and Court resources." Frischling indicated he is evaluating his options as to possible litigation going forward.**

**Frischling was represented by Mario Cerame, a free speech attorney from the Hartford, Connecticut firm of Brignole, Bush and Lewis LLC.**