

Statement by East Haven Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr.
Re: *Chacon v. Town of East Haven*

Good morning everyone. I'd like to thank you all for coming to this important press conference.

Upon resuming office in Nov. 2011 among many difficult issues facing the town, none were as pressing as the problems facing the E.H.P.D. My administration embarked on a course to correct these problems and I am pleased to report that we are nearing final resolution of all issues involving our Police Dept.

On October 26, 2010, a number of Individuals filed a federal lawsuit against the Town of East Haven and twenty-one identified and unidentified defendants alleging various civil rights violations by East Haven Police Officers. Subject to the approval of the presiding Federal Court judge and the Board of Police Commissioners, I am pleased to announce that the parties to that lawsuit have come to a settlement that will put an end to that difficult and emotional litigation.

Specifically, the settlement agreement among the participating parties calls for a monetary payment by the Town of East Haven to the defendants in the amount of \$450,000.00 dollars, inclusive of all claims for attorneys fees. It also calls for a revision to the East Haven Police Department's policy relating to the "Secure Communities Program." In return, this agreement calls for the release of all claims and counterclaims by all parties to the agreement. Finally, for purposes of consolidation, the parties to the agreement will be filing a joint motion with the court requesting that supervision of the policy aspect of the settlement be transferred to the presiding judge in the Town's pending case with the Department of Justice.

I wish to emphasize that this settlement agreement is in no way an admission of wrongdoing on the part of the Town or the East Haven Police Department. Rather, this settlement is another important step

forward in the healing process for our community and for our police family. This agreement ends the threat of protracted litigation, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees and avoiding the potential risk of a large, adverse monetary judgment. Perhaps most importantly, this agreement will provide necessary closure to a difficult and painful chapter in our Town's history.

This agreement was not formulated overnight. Our legal team, led by Special Town Counsel Lawrence Sgrignari and Town Attorney Joseph Zullo, worked tirelessly to bring a conclusion to this incredibly challenging case. I especially want to take this moment to thank Attorney Sgrignari for his contributions to this case and for his help bringing it to a swift conclusion.

Additionally, I want to thank the men and women of our Police Department for their continued hard work and dedication. Only a few weeks ago, I had the privilege of swearing in Ed Lennon as our next Deputy Chief of Police – an officer who has risen through the ranks of our Police Department. When I appointed him, I emphasized that his appointment marks the beginning of a new era of accountability and self-sufficiency for our Police Department. The end to this litigation will further serve to reinforce the “remarkable” progress our Police Department has made since 2011.

Moving forward, with this painful chapter in our Town's history coming to a close, I am confident that our community and Police Department will continue to heal, grow, and prosper.

Thank you... and with that said, I will open this up to questions for our legal team.