I have resigned my position as Stevens Point Police Chief effective June 19th, 2020. My leave has become very politicized, and I recognize that remaining in the position of Chief of Police would create ongoing stress for the Officers, Police and Fire Commission, City Officials and the citizens of Stevens Point. I accept that I am no longer in a position to advocate for the officers and citizens in the political arena to provide the resources they need which is an essential component from the position of Chief of Police.

We've been going through things following my father's death in October and even though mom died several years ago, there were still several of her items too and it's been tough. All of this at a time when my wife of 27 years and I are separated. I took some personal time that day to sort through things at Dad's and it simply was too much for me. I had a drink, finished sorting some stuff and then went back to work. Poor decisions. I wasn't drunk but I had been drinking and shouldn't have gone back. I should have taken time for myself to properly deal with my personal issues, but I did not. Many times in my position, I have spoken about the importance of addressing mental health issues in the community and yet found it difficult to address my own when faced with the challenge. I was paralyzed by the idea of what people would think if they knew the Chief of Police needed counseling. My hope in bringing this all to light is that it will help someone else struggling with the same issues to reach out for help.

I'm proud to say my officers did what they were supposed to and I take full responsibility for what I did and the discipline invoked by my policy violations. I am working with a professional counselor on a regular basis to resolve and face my bereavement issues, separation, and issues I have developed with the consumption of alcohol.

I want to take this opportunity to reach out to the Stevens Point Police Officers, the Police and Fire Commission, City Officials, and the citizens of Stevens Point to share how truly sorry I am for damaging your trust and for the hurt I have caused.

I am grateful that I have been able to serve the City of Stevens Point for the past 29 years. I am thankful for all the support I received over the past five years as Chief of Police and proud of what the Department has accomplished such as moving to a new location and facility, increasing police staffing, the creation of a full-time Crisis Intervention Officer, a second drug officer position, increased supervisory rank structure, increased female officer staffing, and developing a more reflective Officer staffing in the hiring of the first Hmong and Hispanic officers. I am proud of the Stevens Point Police Department and their officers and it has been a privilege for me to have served them. The citizens of Stevens Point have a lot to be proud of in the officers that serve and protect them.

Sincerely,

Martin Skibba Chief of Police