

# MEMO

**To:** Mayor Lewis and City Council  
**From:** Lisa E. Sherman, Chief of Police  
**Date:** August 10, 2017  
**Re:** Ordinance Amendment to add false information to a Police Officer

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After a recent City criminal case involving a suspect who gave false information to a police officer about his name in order to avoid impending arrest, the City Attorney and I discussed why the City ordinance covering *obstructing a police officer* was not sufficient to charge when it comes to a suspect who is being detained during an investigation and is lying to an officer. The *obstructing ordinance* only covers the physical interference and/or threatened physical interference.

In an effort to rectify that situation, which has occurred fairly often over the years and poses a large amount of wasted time and resources when people lie about their name or a material fact about themselves, we found that the City of Mason has an ordinance on the books that has been well accepted and tried, and prohibits the giving of false information to a police officer in the course of an investigation for a violation of the law. We agree that this would meet our needs as well.

We would ask that you adopt this proposed Ordinance Amendment as written and give the department one more tool in their toolbox to hold subjects accountable for their compliance during a legal investigation of an incident.