

Chief's Corner

A message from Police Chief Robert 'Bo' Vespi

(an excerpt from the Rossford Record-Journal News July 10, 2008 - Page 3)

Dear Citizens of Rossford:

While here in Kuwait, being deployed in a joint operative theater serving with many fellow soldiers and sailors from around the world, I have heard about some disturbing opinions of a resident in regards to my person and the leadership of the police department.

My record speaks for itself and should anyone ever have any questions, I would be more than happy to discuss your concerns.

I just want to say to all of you, I am very proud of who I am and what I do for my family, the City of Rossford, and for my country. I have learned over the years as a leader, not only as your Chief of Police and a Lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard, but also as a loving husband and father, that listening is only a part of the key to success. It's what the person does with the information obtained through this listening that is the only measurement of a person's success.

I have made a few changes that were maybe not so popular; however, the changes were small enough to instill some honor, respect and devotion to duty back into the police department. Here is a quote from Harry S. Truman that epitomizes the ever changing ways of leadership: "Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

Although some may be loud and revolt against change, it is the citizenry of Rossford who suffers when problems are presented without any solutions. The Letters to the Editor that make statements without constructive solutions only complicates issues instead of solving challenges.

No one person has the right answer, but together as a team, the citizens of Rossford along with the Police Department can make a difference on fighting crime. I commend all of those who bring the fight to the forefront and together, the outcome will once again serve this outstanding community to make it safe again.

The former Chief Denny Foy fought hard to get back what Rossford had in the past and that was met with some financial difficulties within the city. With some tough decisions that our current administration has had to make, the city's financial picture is getting better and all city personnel deserve credit as some sacrifices have been made by all.

I, too, hope to put more officers on the street in time. For now, our officers can only concentrate on what we have to work with in hopes to not lose the handle on the crime fight within the city. As it stands, we need to focus on what we have and not what we don't have.

In the meantime, report crimes when they occur no matter how small, no matter how big, and most importantly call us when you need help.

Don't let problems continue without reporting them. The city has a very well-trained, professional police department and will do anything to make Rossford safe. There is no doubt we need more officers on the streets and you all should know the elected officials and appointed officials are working on a plan to make this happen. I encourage you to continue to work along side our staff of professional police officers and not against us.

Don't become part of the problem by placing blame. Instead, have the courage to become part of the solution and help as you have done in the past. I wish I could have been there to listen to all of your concerns the night of June 9 council meeting. For the record, I don't have time to "pad my resume" as has been suggested. My resume doesn't change who I am; it does note some worthy professional accomplishments that I have completed and I am very proud of. It doesn't take much courage to attach someone's integrity when they aren't there to defend themselves.

I enjoy serving the Citizens of Rossford and fighting for the freedoms of our country. I look forward to my return to be with my family and continue to serve you. My door is open to all of you, even while I am across the world serving our great country.