

Letters to the Editor

Rossford Record-Journal News
June 19, 2008

Dear Editor:

I don't believe Rossford is unique in the decline of officers in their city. With today's economy, cities struggle to pare their budgets to meet income. Unfortunately, this usually is in the form of employee attrition.

What is troubling is the philosophy of Chief Vespi. I questioned his ability to lead the department from the time he was chosen. His first move was to eliminate the detective bureau as felony crimes were on the increase in Rossford. This left the already stretched officers responsible for following up major crimes in between answering calls for service.

The criminal element quickly recognizes a community that doesn't have the resources to properly investigate profitable crimes. I don't know why he didn't notice this problem. It may be that he was in Quantico Virginia attending the FBI academy padding his resume while Rossford suffers.

I don't like to compare employees with their past counterpart. However, I don't think anyone in this community could say they never saw Chief Foy out on the streets. He was a highly visible figure of the RPD.

I agree with acting Chief Todd Kitzler. A zero tolerance approach to the quality of life issues brought by citizens is the best way to address the rising crime rate. His idea to reinstitute the bicycle patrols is the type of thinking needed. The patrols are highly effective and reduce the static drug sales complained about by residents.

A resurrection of Rossford will necessitate citizen involvement, as well as an increase in manpower and a restructuring of the department. Hopefully, city officials will examine applicants' credentials a little more closely the next time around.

- Dan Wagner