

Dear Editor:

'Interesting reading' is all that came to mind while reading last weeks' Rossford Record Journal. Sure, at times, it's a thankless job being a police officer but I was a bit aghast to read that Police Chief Bo Vespi believed that a reduction in calls and citations was related to "less self-initiated activity" on the part of police officers. What was not suggested as a possibility was two written orders that prevent officers from actively enforcing traffic laws on I-75. Ironically, the year end police report listed intersections along and near I-75 as the primary location of most all motor vehicle crashes within the city.

With a third of the departments' police officers eliminated through attrition, there is, after all, less officers to initiate investigations and enforce traffic laws. With this reduction, the police department no longer offers the services of a School Resource Officer, Community Service Officer nor a detective to follow-up on criminal reports initiated by the patrol force. Until these positions are replaced let's not blame officers who remain for not always being able to do more with less.

As for Mr. Varwig's serious allegation regarding police "harassing our kids," last year citizens of our community cried out for more police officers to reduce juvenile crimes in their neighborhood. We didn't hire more police officers but we were successful in eliminating the criminal element with cooperation between police and the community. I congratulate Mr. Duricek on his appointment to council and hope he has a change of heart from when he scrutinized the department as having too many officers during his tenure as a former council member.

Glenn Goss
Director
Rossford Police Patrolmen's Association