

Ask the Mayor
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First things first
September 14th and 15th
@ the Don Rainier Sunset Lake Park
“Bridgeton First Annual King Pig BBQ contest”
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Why a full time Public Safety Director?

I'm sure you've heard Jack Hummel and the rest of the “sour grape gang” lead by Council woman, Ms. Riley spouse Mr. Dawson complain to the point of aneurism about my decision to hire a full time Public Safety Director (PSD). I'm not rewarding a loyal political party member with a no show job, (i.e. CCUA, Child Advocate Rep.) a few bucks and free health insurance for getting out the vote or being a loyal party member. No I wanted an objective opinion, someone with no ties to the community that would set a path to follow for the Police, Fire and EMT services, would clarify duties, increase productivity, reduce overtime and boost moral. Close to half of all property taxes raised go to these three departments every year. Over the past year in budget meeting with all departments the phrase “because that the way we have done it in the past” is uttered all too often and this is why we are where we are today.

This group has changed their direction several times and has finally settled on the salary ordinance that they feel was not necessary. Mr. Dawson tells you that the position of a part time PSD and the one of a full time PSD does not justify the salary offered to Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson a retiring from NJ State Trooper as a Major one of only twelve Mr. Ferguson had under his command over 350 officers. Has work with other police organization throughout the state and has a vast experience in urban policing. In the first 60 days that Mr. Ferguson started working for the city he has....

1. saved the city \$154,000.00 - that was going to be spent on new computer software for the police department. Instead we will spend a fraction of that and upgrade the current system, have training seminars for a majority of the police officers. This is the key, cross training all the police officers will lead to a more productive unit. Information is power so let's make sure it's not in the hands of a few.
2. Clelia Certified- this is a set of standards and procedures that every offices should follow in all situations. This is a comprehensive set of standards that when the city is certified will help improve our insurance and bond rating.
3. Mentoring the next Chief of Police- This is why he is here in the first place. Writing a budget, managing 70+ officers, dealing with the public, evaluating new recruits, writing ordinances and handing down fair critique in any giving situation. These are but a few of the areas that this PSD in the next 2 years. is asked to help the now acting Chief of Police and whoever gets the position after the exam will have a professional that has led a larger organization

The group that opposes PSD has another agenda, and anyone involved in this group wanted the city to stay under the Democratic Party control. I have made numerous calls Warren Robinson, Doug Van Sant, George McGlouglin and Former Mayor Don Rainier, to meet with this group to see if there is a compromise we can come to and as of Monday I have not heard from anyone at all. This group only represents a fraction of this community and I know the majority of residents would welcome a change from the “this is how we did it in the past” mentality. Please contact me with any ideas that would help Bridgeton thrive.