



CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT

BUREAU OF POLICE

Investigation Division Commander

The Final Chapter

Recently some critics of this administration have questioned many of my comments made while making the argument for the proposed Williamsport Rental Ordinance. Some people believe that this administration is admitting failure in the ability to control the drug and crime problems that have been plaguing our city. What has begun as an honest attempt to be transparent with the citizens of this city and explain the problem that has paralyzed us for over thirty years has spread into attempts by some to politicize the issue.

None of my comments were an admission of failure by this administration. They were simply facts backed by the federal government regarding policing methods and their effectiveness as a short term versus long term solution. I have dedicated almost a year of my life into studying Williamsport's problem in order to protect its future. I have a lot more to say however, this will be my last written communication in regards to the issues that face our city.

For at the end of the day it is you, the citizens that must decide whether or not you want status quo or a Solution that WILL change your city forever and make this city safer for all to enjoy.

I am not a politician, and I have no aspirations to move any further within this police department. I am simply the son of a policeman who loves his work and takes pride in the fact that I am a public servant.

One thing I know for sure is that all eyes are on Williamsport regarding how we are going to proceed regarding this ordinance. I have been contacted by neighbors to our east, and neighbors to our south who are interested in my work. I say that to inform you that I firmly believe that if we fail to take a hard stance on this issue our neighbors will not. Take that for what it is worth, but imagine where their criminals are going to go when they can no longer live there. That's right Williamsport.

If this administration was failing in our efforts to protect our citizens then consider the following information. Recently there have been articles written regarding prison overcrowding and the impact that it is having on Lycoming County. One of the things that is being done is inmates are being

housed out of county at the expense of the taxpayers. As a result of the overcrowding issue, county leaders have studied and discussed options including, expanding at the site of the current jail or building a larger one at another location.

This would indicate to the average person that more criminals are being arrested and that our county's jail has outgrown its available space. Does this sound familiar? It should the same thing occurred between 1986 and 1989. During that time the County prison population began to grow and the new prison built in 1986 could not contain the consistent increase in the jail population and the county was forced to transfer inmates to other counties for incarceration. Funny how history repeats itself when people allow old habits and old thinking to influence their decision making process.

While we would be irresponsible to state that the City isn't still facing challenges regarding crime within the city limits, we have been extremely proactive in trying to solve the puzzle. I would argue that this administration has been more creative than any in recent history. While not everyone is privy to our crime control strategies for obvious reasons we are not sitting back and throwing our hands in the air. We are rolling up our sleeves and thinking outside the box. I guess that is taboo in local politics.

Although this administration has disagreed in regards to some local political issues, we have always and WILL continue to stand firm for this city's residents.

We have purchased a records management system with crime mapping capabilities that will allow this administration to deploy our resources where they are needed with real time data. We believe that this WILL produce real time results.

We are working on a new patrol strategy that will focus our resources in a defined area based on a study of crime data. We have redeployed the Williamsport Bureau of Police special Operations Group and are cooperating with the Federal bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task force. We have partnered with the Pennsylvania State Police Montoursville barracks throughout the summer and have conducted numerous saturation patrols with more to follow.

There are many other ideas and projects that we are working on to make YOU the citizen safer. If someone out there with a political agenda wants to throw me under the bus for telling YOU the citizens the truth so be it. I would be more than happy to step down and let someone else come up with some ideas to save our city.