

I have been made aware that a sitting member of this council has made several false statements about me and about the Quarryville Borough Police Department. It is my great concern that this council may have heard these assertions and perhaps additional statements of misinformation during executive sessions. The people of the Borough of Quarryville have placed trust in this council to make rational, informed, and responsible decisions for the good of the community. If the council bases its decisions upon false and erroneous information, significant negative ramifications for this entire community may result. As the Chief of Police, it is my duty to correct these inaccurate statements.

There are four statements that I will briefly address:

First, it was stated that I was "stirring up trouble in Quarryville by starting a union and wanting to be part of it."

The truth is that it was the officers who approached me last fall requesting to start a police union. I had nothing to do with its inception and it was the officers who wanted me to be covered by the same protections that they were seeking for themselves. I was aware of two other borough police departments within the County where the Chiefs are members of their police unions because their councils agreed to allow that. I understand that it is this councils desire to force me out of the union. To avoid having the borough spend money on attorney fees to compel me to leave the union, I have acquiesced to being forced out of the union without fighting that point.

Second, it was stated that the reason I wanted to be in the union was so that I could have a take-home-car.

This is a false statement. I had no intention of requesting a take-home-car, now or in the future, and that was not in the contract document that the officers drafted for the purpose of sitting down at the table with the council to negotiate a fair contract.

Third, it was stated that, "The QV Police don't do real police work, that they are only peacekeepers, and that the Pennsylvania State Police do all the real police investigations for the QV Police."

First let me affirm the one element of truth in this statement: the officers here in Quarryville are peacekeepers. The officers you currently have serving this community are indeed wonderful "peacekeepers!" They all use their most important police tool; that is, their ability to talk with people in order to deescalate domestic disputes and disturbances of all kinds. And, because they are quick to respond to these types of calls, they do provide this community the peace and tranquility that many take for granted. But to allege that they don't do real police work is absolutely false and insulting!

In the two years and five months that I have been the Chief of Police in Quarryville, we have not turned a single police investigation that was ours jurisdictionally over to the Pennsylvania State Police. (To be clear, any police department must refer persons to the proper jurisdiction for reporting a crime. Often victims with a Quarryville address, but not actual residents of the borough, will come to our police station to report a crime that occurred outside of the borough. In such cases we have to refer them to PSP, Strasburg Borough or wherever the actual crime occurred to report that crime. This goes both ways as other departments refer victims to us when the crime was committed here in the borough. That is not what is in view here.)

I have a printout of the charges that were brought by the Quarryville Officers in the past year and will read off just a sampling of the types of crimes we all have investigated and for which we brought charges. You will be provided your own copy of this printout. Understand that this list only reflects

the investigations that led to actual charges. There are many investigations that do not lead to charges for various reasons.

[READ THE SAMPLE OF CHARGES] This is just last years' investigations since we switched to the new records management system. There are other intensive and protracted investigations that are worth mentioning from the year before; the 15-felony sexual assault charges that I brought in 2018, the Aggravated Assault that was very close to being deemed an Attempted Homicide charge that Officer Thompson brought. There were multiple other child abuse cases, cyber child pornography cases, theft and fraud cases from small loss to some rather large losses that are not on this list of charges.

Most of these crimes involved many hours of investigation before and after bringing the charges. These officers are very busy doing real police work.

I believe that Quarryville's number one asset that protects all of the other assets of the borough is its exceptional employees. One cannot just replace a quality police officer, as if he or she was a piece of equipment. These officers know the community and the people they serve; they are officers for whom I receive complements routinely, not complaints. My concern is that we will lose some of these officers if they do not have a fair hearing by this council and cannot acquire a fair contract that both parties agree upon.

Fourth and finally, it was stated that the unionizing of the police force would bankrupt the borough.

This is an irrational statement as the QPD is the last of the 26 full-time police departments within the County to have a union. I checked with the FOP and there are no municipalities that have gone bankrupt because their officers organized into a bargaining unit for the purpose of contract negotiations. In most cases these other jurisdictions have been unionized for decades and a great majority of the time the officers and the councils come to an agreement on a contract without having to spend any money on attorney fees or for a neutral arbitrator. It simply involves communication between the two. It would be a positive development for this council to engage in communication with their most valuable asset, the police officers who risk their lives to serve and protect this community, in order to ensure that they will be there in the future for all who live in the Borough of Quarryville.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope that each one of you will seriously evaluate the veracity of any statements that you may have heard regarding these matters. You have been given the great responsibility to make wise, prudent and informed decisions for the sake of this community.