



Dane County Supervisor Brett Hulsey

Chair, Personnel and Finance Committee

Member, Lakes and Watersheds Commission

Madison Development Corporation Board Member

March 3, 2010

Dear Dane County deputies,

On behalf of all county board supervisors, I want you know that we appreciate the hard and dangerous work that you do. The Sheriff and you are doing a great job protecting our safety. Here are a few thoughts responding to the recent personal attacks by your Vice President posted at Madison.com.

Hope for Better Communication

Policy discussions in the media are not the best way to communicate. I would be happy to meet with all three shifts of deputies to talk in person. I have met with your leadership and lobbyist many times but think it would be more productive to meet directly to hear your questions and address your concerns.

Personal Attacks Not Necessary

The Dane County Deputy Association Vice President wrote last week that I “got some family history with many law enforcement contacts. In other words, he's got a grudge.” This seems unnecessarily personal in addition to the fact that my voting history shows no sign of a grudge.

The first part is true, however, my father, brother and sister have all struggled with alcoholism and have been arrested for Driving under the Influence (DUI). I cannot thank the arresting law enforcement officers enough for forcing them to deal with their disease and get help. My father was sober when he died and by brother and sister are maintaining their sobriety.

This family history is why I have been a strong supporter of Drug Court and other programs to treat alcoholism and drug addictions in our jail and criminal justice system. I also think my parking tickets are paid for.

No Grudge Here

It is hard to find a grudge pattern in my voting record. I did ask all deputies to take the same pay cut that I and all other county, state and UW employees took. That was a matter of principle -- fairness. We all had to do our fair share to meet the challenges created by the worst recession since the Great Depression and state budget cuts.

Since being elected in 1998, I have voted to add 83 new deputies, a 25% increase and far more than any other county department. I have also voted for or sponsored many budgets and resolutions to raise deputy pay by 33%, including the one that raises your salaries 3% at the end of next year.

The Lake Patrol deputies can testify that I have worked with them to upgrade our fleet with new boats, ATV, dive and other equipment needed to protect their safety and ours. We set up a boat replacement schedule funded by the state at 75% to save taxpayers money in the process.

Sheriff office records show that I have authored resolutions to buy 36 patrol cars, 3 boats, and \$6.77 million in other needed sheriff equipment upgrades in the last three years alone. Hardly the sign of a grudge.

Next Steps

I want to meet with all deputies and work with you to address your issues, find greater efficiencies in the Sheriff's department, increase public safety and protect the taxpayers' checkbooks.

Sincerely,

Brett

Brett Hulsey

Chair, Personnel and Finance Committee

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