

OPEN LETTER FROM MATT BOSTROM
Ramsey County Water Patrol, Reserve Volunteers, and Part-Time Licensed Officers
October 25, 2010

Ramsey County Water Patrol, Reserve Volunteers, and Part-Time Licensed Officers are recognized county-wide assets capable of being among the best in the state. These women and men are providing exactly the type and quality of service the county needs. The staff participating in these roles should know I intend to support them by improving training and equipment, and by increasing their numbers and opportunities to contribute throughout the county. Simply stated, my vision is a vision of growth, not disbanding or merging. Specifically, the Reserve Unit should have the following:

Staffing and supervision. My goal is to increase the number of sworn staff in the unit to provide clear oversight and direction during all operational periods. I will seek supervisors and sworn staff members for the unit who are involved and enthusiastic about the mission and growth of the reserve team.

Increasing funding and grant procurement. I will create an annual budget for the unit which reflects needs for equipment replacement and procurement. Our team will actively seek grants and other funding sources for the unit.

Improving the volunteer reserve uniform allowance. I will create a volunteer uniform allowance system which limits or eliminates all costs to volunteers.

Updating the training volunteer reserves. With internal and external resources, I will increase reserve training, and support will become a priority issue for our team.

Recruiting and retaining the best volunteers. Our reserve volunteers will be cultivated under a two-track philosophy which supports those individuals hoping to get into a law enforcement career (our farm team), and those simply wishing to serve the community by volunteering. These tracks can complement one another, and will, if we create an atmosphere of common trust and mission goals.

Finally, those of you who have been involved with the Water Patrol Reserve Unit are my best source of ideas for improvement. The Water Patrol Unit is, by State Statute, one of the most important duties in the Sheriff's Office mandates. My personal commitment to you is that, with your help, we will succeed and grow to the highest of standards and professionalism and become a leader in water safety and volunteerism.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 651-774-1744.

Sincerely,

Matt Bostrom