

From: Kirk Allen
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2018 12:24 PM
To: 'Spear4sheriff@mycci.net' <Spear4sheriff@mycci.net>
Subject: Media Questions in BOLD

Mr. Spear,
Numerous Coles County citizens have forwarded a letter to our organization with a laundry list of questions.

In an effort to ensure there are no misunderstandings or misrepresentations both in the attached letter and our future article we would appreciate a written response to the questions below.

The letter appears to have been written by someone other than you. It is not signed and at the bottom it makes reference to "Citizens to elect Steve Spear". According to the State Board of elections, there is no committee filed by that name.

The letter begins with, "First allow us to introduce our candidate".

Who is "us" referring to in this letter?

Have you filed paperwork to form the Committee "Citizens to elect Steve Spear"?

The letter states you are the Republican candidate for Sheriff of Coles County.

Considering that statement is not true based on their being another Republic candidate, do you find that statement as misleading the voters?

Is the current Sheriff NOT accessible and if so, please explain?

The letter speaks of the need for a sheriff who is fiscally responsible.

Can you define fiscally responsible?

The current Sheriff audit information for 2015, and 2016 can be found on the Comptroller web site. The 2014 budget was that of the former sheriff so not an issue for these questions. In 2015 the audit of the Sheriffs financials showed a surplus \$37,320.00 In 2016 the audit of the Sheriffs financials showed a surplus of \$107,457.00. The 2017 Audit has not been completed yet.

With the first two years of Sheriff's Rankin's budgets producing a surplus of \$141,777.00, do you find that to be fiscally irresponsible or fiscally responsible?

****Assuming your information is correct I feel these numbers speak for themselves regarding my fiscal responsibility.**

What information can you provide that would indicate the current sheriff does not consider law enforcement as the main function of the Sheriff's office?

Can you cite any state statute that outlines the Sheriff's Office's main function is Law Enforcement?

The letter claims the sheriff has failed to attend county board meetings.

Can you provide any state statute that points to the Sheriff being required to attend County Board meetings?

****No statute or state law exists requiring the Sheriff to attend County Board meetings; someone from the Sheriff's Dept. has been present at almost all of the County Board meetings.**

Isn't it true there has been a representative of the Sheriff's Office at the majority if not all County Board meetings?

The letter claims the Sheriff has failed to attend "training board meetings".

****The Chief Deputy is in charge of all training and has attended the training meetings in Mattoon IL.**

Can you please provide the name of the Board that has those meetings?

"He has continually failed to attend mandatory firearms trainings and two of the three yearly qualifications during his Tenure?"

Are you taking the position that the Current Coles County Sheriff is not or was not qualified as it relates to the carrying of a firearm as the Sheriff?

"he has not filed an annual report since taking office"

Can you provide the State Statute that requires an annual report from the Sheriff? Who does this report go too since he answers to the People?

****No statute or state law requiring an annual report.**

"As your sheriff Steve will attend all required meetings"

Can you identify which meetings require attendance by the Sheriff?

****The 911 Committee and Sheriff's and Law Enforcement Committee meetings are attended by myself unless a scheduling conflict with another meeting arises then someone from the Dept. attends (Lt. or higher)**

"keep regular office hours"

Can you identify any time the current Sheriff's Office did not keep regular office hours in accordance with State Law?

“We believe the sheriff should be accessible and accountable to the taxpayers, county board, and the officers he leads.”

Who is we?

Are you of the position the law needs to be changed so that the Sheriff answers to the County Board?

Can you provide any examples where the current Sheriff has not been accountable to the taxpayers, county board, and the officers in his department?

“As your sheriff he will consider rural patrol as a priority. Rural crime is rising and you deserve a sheriff who will listen to you as citizens and respond to your needs properly and proficiently.”

The letter implies that the current Sheriff does not listen to the public. Do you have any evidence to support he does not listen or is this political hyperbole from an anonymous letter written on your behalf?

****As Sheriff I take phone calls and/or meet with the public on an almost daily basis, sometimes I even have visits at my home in the middle of the night. In addition to that I am on the board and/or member of more than 8 clubs/organizations throughout the County/State. I assist many other organizations with fundraising efforts by either being involved in the planning, attending the event or participating in the event.**

“As your sheriff he will be fiscally conservative and responsible to the citizens of Coles County.”

Do you have any examples that point to the current Sheriff not being fiscally conservative and responsible to the citizens of the County?

“We need a true Republican sheriff.”

Can you please define what a “true Republican” is?

“He will return accountability, responsibility, and leadership to the Sheriff's Office”

The above statement insinuates there is no accountability, responsibility, or leadership in the Sheriff's Office.

Considering you have been a Coles County Deputy for many years, can you provide any documentation to show you have taken measures to address these claimed concerns during your time as an officer?

****I have never received a phone call or email or had a face to face visit from Sgt. Spear regarding any of the concerns or ideas for improvements he has voiced in his bid for election.**

Is it true that you were in personal possession of certain weapons issued by the Federal Government that were identified as missing during an inventory inspection when the current Sheriff took office?

During the past Sheriff Darrel Cox's time in office, multiple court orders to destroy seized weapons were violated. Do you believe violations of Court Orders by any law enforcement officer should be grounds for immediate removal from their position?

At any time during your time as a Coles County Sheriff Deputy, have you ever purchased a firearm from any police department or Sheriff's office?

Is it true you have been reprimanded for neglect of duty?

Records reflect what appears to be a political connection with the current Coles County GOP Chairman John Clough.

In light of Mr. Clough's use of the "N" word, does Mr. Clough represent the leadership qualities you expect to find in a Chairman of a political party and Prison Review Board member?

Do you approve of the information contained in the attached letter and its dissemination to the voters of Coles County?

We would appreciate a response so that the voters of Coles County are properly informed prior to casting their vote.

If you have any questions please let us know.

Thanks
Kirk Allen, Director
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