



Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Qs about the "team of felons"

Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Sun, Sep 17, 2017 at 3:23 PM

To: mohlisd@waterloopolice.com

Dear Captain Mohlis,

I write the Iowa politics website Bleeding Heartland. We corresponded last year.

I am following up on this story reported by KCRG last November.

<http://www.kcrg.com/content/news/How-Waterloo-Police-is-working-to-build-better-relationships-with-the-black-community-401034205.html>

Trelka says, "I've developed a team of felons. A team of convicted citizens who have been convicted of felonies who are going to sit down with me, and we are going to look at our policies. Especially use of force policies."

Lt. Fangman recently sent me a packet of documents in response to my open records request. I learned that the Waterloo Police Department has not revised its use of force policy since 2011.

Among other things, I had requested "Any reports or memos recommending Waterloo Police departmental policy changes, written during 2016 or 2017 by or with the assistance of a team of local citizens with felony convictions." In response, Lt. Fangman sent me the attached bylaws for the Waterloo Community Safety Board. See pages 2 and 38 of the packet, also attached.

Those bylaws mention that "The Board shall be comprised of members of the Waterloo Police Chief's Citizen Advisory Team."

Can you clarify:

1. Is the Waterloo Police Chief's Citizen Advisory Team the "team of felons" Chief Trelka referenced in his KCRG interview last November?
2. Are all members of the Waterloo Community Safety Board and the Waterloo Police Chief's Citizen Advisory Team people with felony convictions?
3. Was the Waterloo Community Safety Board created because of suggestions from the Citizen Advisory Team?
4. How many times has the "team of felons" met with Chief Trelka or with his subordinates to talk about departmental policies?
5. Were changes to the use of force policy or other official documents discussed at any of those meetings?
6. Does the "team of felons" and/or the Waterloo Police Chief's Citizen Advisory Team continue to meet, and if so, how often?
7. Is the creation of the Waterloo Community Safety Board the sole policy change that grew out of the "team of felons" conversations? Based on the packet of documents I received, it seems that it is, but I want to confirm.

Thanks in advance for any further information or clarification you can provide.

Yours,

Laura Belin