

**VILLAGER | LETTER TO THE EDITOR**  
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## **County needs a new sheriff**

I'm a recently retired Commander in the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. I served under Bob Fletcher for his 16-year tenure. I was a Fletcher supporter in his first and even second term. However, as time went on, it became apparent that Bob Fletcher cared much less for public safety and the citizens of Ramsey County than he did for his own agenda and continued re-election.

Fletcher has appointed more than 30 friends, relatives and political workers outside of the normal civil service hiring channels. He lost a \$750,000 lawsuit for transferring and, in essence demoting a lieutenant and sergeant who had opposed him in the previous election. There have been no employee evaluations in Fletcher's 16 years. Consequently, good employees who wish to be promoted can't, because there are no measurements of performance in place. Fletcher's political appointees, however, are brought in at high rank and pay levels.

Wasteful spending has been the hallmark of Fletcher's tenure. Although Fletcher denies overspending his budget, the fact is that he has overspent a minimum of \$5 million in his combined annual budgets. Additionally, taxpayer funds have been used to directly enhance Bob Fletcher's election campaign efforts. For example, when Bill Finney ran for sheriff, Fletcher opened an outreach center in the African-American community. Costs for building rental, staffing and equipment for this center ran into hundreds of thousands of dollars. At that same time, Fletcher created a previously non-existent Cold Case Unit to reopen the Barbra Winn homicide case in which Bill Finney's friend Aaron Foster was a suspect. The Cold Case Unit has not existed since that investigation. Under Fletcher, the Sheriff's Office has never had a strategic plan. The Sheriff's Policy and Procedure Manual has not been updated in 16 years.

The time for change is long overdue. Matt Bostrom is currently seeking the Ramsey County sheriff's office. The citizens of Ramsey County have the opportunity to elect a true man of honor and substance who is highly qualified to lead and bring integrity back to the sheriff's office.

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