

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Wednesday, October 27, 2010
For More Information: Randy Gustafson 651-269-2138

Ramsey County Sheriff Race Will Not Have Debate

(St. Paul, MN) Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, seeking a fifth term, has refused to appear at any public debates this election year despite the best efforts of his opponent Matt Bostrom, a former Assistant Chief of the St. Paul Police Department.

“We have continually tried over the past several months to get Bob Fletcher to appear in public to debate the issues facing our citizens and the future of law enforcement in Ramsey County, but he has refused to meet the public at every turn,” Matt Bostrom said.

“After sixteen years in office Mr. Fletcher has decided to run a campaign of isolation, hiding behind his advantage of name identification as noted in several recent news stories,” Bostrom stated. “Apparently Mr. Fletcher is afraid to answer questions from ordinary citizens about their concerns on issues such as his mismanagement of the Gang Strike Forces, the FBI investigations of his department, his top aides convicted of stealing money and serving sentences in federal prison, the repeated overspending of his budget and the lack of updated personnel policies to name a few.”

“This isolation strategy is evident by the fact that his only endorsements are from groups that depend on him for their employment, except for the St. Paul Police Federation that endorsed both of us,” Bostrom noted. “Election campaigns are about reaching out and listening to the voters, the organizations they belong to and respected community leaders.”

“My message of restoring trust, fiscal responsibility, community involvement and collaboration with all law enforcement partners in the county combined with my experience has resonated with a wide spectrum of supporters, unprecedented for a Ramsey County Sheriff candidate,” Bostrom said. “After screening both candidates, ten labor unions and both major daily newspapers have chosen to endorse Matt Bostrom.”

“Civic leaders from throughout the county have taken the bold step to publicly support the challenger rather than the incumbent sheriff and I thank them for their courage,” Bostrom said. “Many of the over 140 civic leaders and organizations that are supporting my election have worked with Bob and are saying it’s time for change.”

Bob Fletcher refused to participate in two League of Women Voters (LWV) debates and the Building Owners Managers Association debate in October. When Fletcher declined to debate Bostrom in the first debate planned by the Saint Paul League of Women Voters, Bob proposed an alternative debate format which would have excluded public questions to the candidates. The St. Paul NAACP was also unsuccessful in getting Fletcher to agree to a debate in the Summit/University/Rondo neighborhood.

“The latest refusal came Tuesday night,” Bostrom campaign spokesperson Randy Gustafson said, “Bob’s newest and final reason for not debating is that ‘his schedule is too busy the last week of the campaign’ according to a campaign staff person for Sheriff Fletcher via email to our campaign manager. We responded that Matt’s schedule is full too, however he was more than willing to change his schedule to accommodate a face-to-face debate with Sheriff Fletcher. But the Fletcher campaign maintains Bob just has not had the time.”

“What is also interesting is that it was reported to the Bostrom campaign that Bob Fletcher had the time this past weekend to travel to Orlando Florida for a conference, but didn’t have time for the citizens of Ramsey County,” Gustafson said. “The allure of Disney World must have been more important to Bob than the prospect of truthfully discussing the record of his administration.”

For more information about Matt Bostrom, his supporters and his vision for transforming the Ramsey County Sheriff Department visit his web site at www.BostromForSheriff.com.

####

Internet links to recent news stories about the Ramsey County Sheriff Race:

10-26-10

http://www.minnpost.com/stories/2010/10/26/22716/race_for_ramsey_county_sheriff_bob_fletchers_style_focus_of_attention

10-25-10

<http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/news/2010/10/23/ramsey-county-sheriff-bob-fletcher-vs-matt-bostrom>

10-25-10

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/local/105649493.html?page=1&c=y>

Full listing of media coverage via BostromForSheriff.com:

<http://bostromforsheriff.com/media.shtml>

<http://bostromforsheriff.com/news.shtml>