

Open Letter To The Leadership Of Tualatin

BY LAWRENCE J. HOWARD, CWO (RET) KTJ

After almost 3 decades in Tualatin I am humbled that I never took the time to learn more about the brave, dedicated and caring police officers serving our town. These professional and valiant individuals, standing on high values and standards, put their lives on the line day and night standing guard while we go about our everyday lives. Tualatin Police officers choose to deal with the many multifaceted, dangerous, and complicated situations in the streets and back alleys of our town, and unfortunately what seems to be the ever increasing criminal element of our society, all the while remaining professional and controlled, and with public safety in mind, bringing any situation to an end.

Our officers daily face a myriad of issues and work to resolve the problems (crimes) in the city including facing individuals with serious mental problems, and a growing homelessness population. After attending the Tualatin Police Experience April 2016 I learned of the cynicism, and disdain our officers face while serving us, the pressures of solving issues quickly and with respect even to the most belligerent and dangerous they encounter. Their better days are filled assisting the residents of our city through programs like National Night Out, Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up, Prescription Drug Take-Back to name a few, or more often than not they are seen directing traffic to keep confusion to a minimum helping those who are law abiding citizens. Unfortunately many of us fail to see police in action on our behalf. As citizens we should stand tall and greet our officers with a smile. We should thank them for the service and for providing a safe haven for us in important areas such as schools and on the streets and highways.

I am taking this time to say thank you to all the police serving our communities,

keeping us safe, protecting the needy and lost souls, and for doing it all for pay that is not commensurate with the service they provide. Thank you for remaining consummate professionals, respectful and calm, even when faced with problems or issues that are at times dealt out by the publics worst.

Thank you, the brave and professional police and administrative staff of Tualatin, serving and assisting our officers, keeping us safe and who, each day, start with unknowns on how it will end for them before they return home to family. Our officers do this with support, resources, and assistance which only the Tualatin Mayor and city leaders can authorize. As a citizen of the community I ask that the budget be reviewed and that every effort be made to fill the resource list and support our officers, including an addition to their building to provide a training facility. Our Officers can only be as good as the level of training and support they receive. This was evident with our nation's military, whose families reported to us of the hardships they faced. Many of these troops are our family and friends, going into war ill prepared. We cannot and should not let this happen within our community to the guardians protecting us.

Thank you,



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Lawrence Howard and his wife, Renee, moved to Tualatin in 1989. He is the President of the Tualatin Library Foundation, the Quartermaster of Tualatin VFW, and QM supporting VFW District 16.