

Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

Caseyville Police Officers

To: Mayor George Chance and Police Committee Members  
Letter Intention: Ongoing Problems with Chief Roth

Dear Sirs, as you know roughly 2 years ago all of the members of the Caseyville Police Department and FOP Lodge #139 formally signed a letter, through a vote of no-confidence in Chief Roth. This letter was sent to you for review with all of our concerns and at that time you chose to do nothing about the situation. I hereby inform you that as of today these problems have only grown worse. The body of this letter will illustrate and inform you of numerous specific incidents where Chief Roth has acted inappropriately, unethically and sometimes even in a criminal manner. Also, the state of the department has continued to decline, as we continue to lose all of our experienced officers to other law enforcement agencies.

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know we feel this information and action against the Chief, (speaking of his resignation/retirement) would not only benefit the police department but all of you and village hall as well. When you carefully study these incidents and actions by Chief Roth, you will see it reflects poorly not only on us, the police department as a whole but also on you as Village leaders. As you know, it is you that keep him in his position at the protest of every officer in this department. Chief Roth has lost all respect and support in this department and it only continues to get worse.

The following is a list of actions taken by Chief Roth over a period of years, not necessarily in order but that we feel is conduct unbecoming a Chief of Police and even as a low level police officer as well. Also, it is well known in this police department and throughout the Village that patrol officers are held to a higher standard than Chief Roth is. We are advising you of all of this information, in the hopes that you will take the appropriate action by removing Chief Roth from the office of Police Chief or even better convincing him to retire from his office immediately and gracefully. If you decide not to take this action, we feel compelled and forced to take this situation and information public through every known media outlets/newspapers and to the proper legal authorities such as St. Clair Co. States Attorney, the U.S. Attorneys Office, FBI, Illinois Attorney General's Office, Illinois State Police, etc. This information will negatively affect Chief Roth, the city leaders and the police department.

We will be forced to hire one attorney as a group due to the ongoing hostility and corruption that is causing undue and unnecessary stress leading up to and including medical problems with some employees. We can no longer allow this police department to deteriorate at the level it is while elected officials stand by and allow a police chief full impunity on every level. This effects a village department, village citizens, and the entire law enforcement community. We afforded this board and the Chief an opportunity to do the right things but as of today can not say one step was taken in the right direction. Our

Union Representatives and Attorneys are aware of the poor leadership, corruption, and hostility and are willing to back us when we are ready to move forward.

**INFORMATION:**

- ❖ Two tone Gray and Silver Dodge Ram Pick-Up seized through stated drug asset forfeiture statutes that Chief Roth was driving on duty and for personal use while working a second job using village fuel. Chief Roth was told to auction the vehicle because he was using this vehicle and was also assigned an unmarked black Ford Crown Victoria. Past practice of auctioning seized vehicles was to take all police equipment from the vehicle and hold a public silent auction. However, the Dodge Ram Pick-Up was not publicly auctioned but instead one of Chief's very good friends, Brad Reno, who is a car salesman was allowed to purchase the vehicle with all the police equipment. Reno then sold the Dodge Ram Pick Up back to Chief Roth with all of the police equipment. We were told the auction this time was only for dealers and that is how Reno won the auction. However, we found out the Chief attempted to get Cross Roads Motors involved in the bidding process but they opted not to because it seemed "suspicious" and is considered bid rigging which is a felony. It is obvious the Chief arranged to get the truck in the end because the equipment was left in the truck. Also, all the equipment was purchased with money seized through drug asset/forfeiture. This is official misconduct and a conflict of interest in that Roth should have never been involved in the sale of the vehicle.
- ❖ The Chief is part owner of a corporation in Costa Rica which includes other business partners, Brad Reno the car salesman, and Jim Quirin who was recently indicted by US Attorney Stephen Wigginton for benefits fraud by falsely applying for unemployment benefits while having a large flow of income coming in and using the illegally obtained unemployment benefits in Costa Rica at places such as Hooters and other drinking establishments while there with the Chief. It was also brought to our attention by a St. Clair County Investigator that Chief Roth's business partner, Jim Quirin, shot an on duty police officer in the State of Arkansas. This information is also known by one of your Village Board Members.
- ❖ Chief Roth purchased \$1100 worth Luggage which when delivered was immediately placed in his office. The luggage was then used by the Chief to go on vacation to the Philippines for two weeks. During this vacation he went with a married woman whose husband was serving in the US Air Force. The luggage was purchased with money from drug funds accumulated through the drug asset forfeiture statute. When the Chief found out we knew about the purchase he attempted to cover his tracks by putting the luggage in the armory and saying it was for ammunition. However, we already had ample storage space and containers for ammunition. Also, at the current time the Chief is storing just a few vests in the luggage. A current full time officer transported the Chief to the St. Louis Lambert Air Port and identified the luggage he was using as the luggage purchased with drug funds. This is Official Misconduct and misuse of drug funds.

- ❖ Chief Roth failed to call in an outside agency to investigate the theft of \$2000-\$3000 in seized money through the drug asset forfeiture statute. The theft was never investigated and it was learned the Chief had and still has a spare key to the evidence room. With that, it is suspected the Chief was involved in the theft. Then Evidence Officer Robert Belba soon left due to integrity issues with the evidence room with the Chief having access to the room and property missing. Belba now works for the Fairview Heights Police Department
- ❖ Chief Roth ordered a probationary Police Officer to issue a criminal citation for disorderly conduct to Craig Scroggins, a village resident, just because Scroggins called the St. Clair County Health Department on several occasions to make complaints of smoking inside of Jessi's Hideout. This Officer did not want to issue the citation due to the circumstances but felt he had to due to being on probation. This was an unlawful arrest. It is a citizen's fundamental right to make a complaint with an entity if he feels the law is being violated. Yet, he was punished for it and has to face court and possible fines due to the Chief's personal relationship with the female bar owner of Jessi's Hideout.
- ❖ In June of 2000 a Caseyville Police Officer had a subject by the name of Dominic Robitaille pulled over on a traffic stop on Illinois 157 at Petroff for DUI. Two Officers were on scene and can testify the Robitaille was extremely intoxicated and belligerent. Roth showed up on scene while the officer was arresting Robitaille and took him from the officer. Roth then transported him home while his car sat on the side of the road. Roth then returned with someone to pick up the vehicle. Two days later this same subject, Dominic Robitaille, struck and killed a motorist while driving under the influence. The reason the Chief came and took this subject home is because Chief had a sexual relationship with the subjects mother. Chief Roth was photographed at the subject's mother's residence on duty, in uniform, in a police vehicle outside of venue. The mayor was informed of this and all he had to say was for Roth to knock it off. If it were not for Roth's relationship with the subject's mother then the officers would have been permitted to do their jobs and it is highly possible that motorist would not have been killed 2 days later. Does the killed motorist's family know of this information? It is Official Misconduct.
- ❖ A Caseyville Police Officer arrested a Texas resident for DUI and after processing him and bonding him out for \$300 cash bond, the officer placed the money with a St. Clair County Bond Receipt in the locked box. Roth knew the guy or knew someone who knew the guy so he removed the money from the locked box and deposited it in an account then wrote the guy a check from the Village giving him his \$300 back. The DUI report was deleted and the DUI paperwork was never forwarded. The Officer has a copy of the check that was written and the paperwork that should have been forwarded. Once bond money is taken and it is attached to a St. Clair County Bond Receipt it becomes the property of St. Clair County Circuit Clerk. When Roth removed the money that made it a theft and Official Misconduct.
- ❖ Roth had an affair with a married woman named Kara Wakefield. Wakefield used to work for the company that cleaned the police department. Roth had sex with Kara at the police department. Roth used to meet Kara at his residence in

Fairview Heights while he was on duty to have sex with Kara. Kara Wakefield was and is still married to Eric Wakefield who is Caseyville Sgt. Scott Miller's business partner. Eric Wakefield found out and because of the circumstances had to seek medical treatment and lost his hair. Eric made a complaint with the mayor told Eric you know how these cops are; you give them a badge and a gun and it gives them a 10 inch dick. After the affair, Roth observed Eric Wakefield at the annual Caseyville St. Stephen's picnic. Roth followed Wakefield around until walking past him and bumping into him. Roth attempted to have an officer arrest Eric Wakefield for battery but the Officer knew the history and refused to conduct the unlawful order. Roth then contacted a probationary officer and had him write a battery citation on Eric Wakefield. Roth then sent the Officer to Troy, Illinois to Eric and Kara's home to arrest him. Eric Wakefield was unlawfully arrested and detained and brought to Caseyville Police Department for booking and processing. All this because of Official Misconduct and abuse of police authority. The charge was later dropped by the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office when the Caseyville Police Detective informed them of the circumstances.

- ❖ Roth had another affair with an Asian woman and brought her to the Police Department for lunch. Roth was groping on the Asian woman and kissing on her in the police department in front of other officers and was acting inappropriate. He then brought the married Asian woman to a Village Board Meeting and introduced her as his girlfriend.
- ❖ Caseyville Officers had a Tennessee man pulled over on a traffic stop for DUI. Roth showed up on scene and learned the guy had over 10,000 rounds of ammunition in his vehicle. Roth made a deal with the guy. If the guy signed the ammunition over to him then he would not get a DUI. The guy signed the ammunition over to him. Somehow the paperwork was sent in anyway and the guy's driver's license was suspended. He was furious and so Roth had to contact then Assistant St. Clair County State's Attorney Tracy Baum to straighten it out. This is Official Misconduct and Accepting a Bribe by the Chief.
- ❖ Trustee Wally Abernathy's relative Maryanne Abernathy was arrested for unlawful possession of controlled substance and jailed. Roth ordered the Detective to get a very low bond on her. The bond was set at \$5,000/10% to apply which is the bond on some misdemeanors. Maryanne was then written a citation for driving while license suspended. Roth ordered the Detective to have St. Clair County State's Attorney Julie Elliot draw up an order to dismiss the charges. This is Official Misconduct.
- ❖ Roth consistently has charges and tickets dismissed for friends, friends of friends, woman he is sleeping with, etc. Official Misconduct.
- ❖ Roth has been arrested on two separate occasions for DUI. Once he struck 4 vehicles and left the scene of the accident. Roth was also arrested on a gun charge.
- ❖ Roth used his authority as police chief to make drug arrests of his daughter go away. Roth's daughter, Liberty Roth, is a heroin addict who has been arrested with heroin on several occasions. He also obstructed his own officer's duties when they were called to Taco Bell in Caseyville for a female passed out behind the wheel in the drive thru. It was his daughter and he showed up on scene. She

was obviously nodding and under the influence of heroin. She also resisted the officers who had to go hands on but she was never charged with anything.

- ❖ He shot a dog on Forest Blvd and propped it up on the rail of the overpass to I 255 in an inhumane way.
- ❖ When he was going through a divorce with his ex-wife the Fairview Heights Police were called to his residence numerous times where guns were involved with his domestic violence issues.
- ❖ He shot his ex-wife's dog and threw it in the woods, then told his wife at the time (Tammy) that her house dog was gone and must of ran off and into the woods, he was not able to locate the missing dog. He stated this knowing he shot and killed the dog the entire time.
- ❖ He began a sexual relationship with a bartender at Full Moon Saloon, Kristin Biggins. Biggins has a revoked driver's license for DUI and has been pulled over numerous times for driving revoked and DUI. Once she was DUI and involved in a crash. Roth ordered officers not to arrest her for DUI or charge her with felonies. Just this year she was pulled over for felony driving while license revoked and as a new officer was walking up to the vehicle she was on the phone with Roth. The officer told her to get off the phone and the officer arrested her. The Department then told the officer to expedite his report so that it could get up to the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office before it could be intercepted.
- ❖ Also, on one occasion several officers were searching for a dog causing problems out around 89<sup>th</sup> and Bunkum Rd. Two officers and Chief Roth spotted the dog, the dog was trying to run away and posed no threat to anyone. Chief Roth opened fire from the passenger seat of another officers patrol vehicle with a high powered .308 rifle, striking the dog in the head killing it instantly. Roth then proceeded to pick up the dead dog and tossed it into a nearby dumpster. This is not only unethical but violation of criminal law.
- ❖ On another recent occasion Chief Roth ordered a patrol officer against his will and in protest to shoot a non-aggressive dog that posed no threat to anyone and even ran under a car for protection. The officer acting on Chief Roth's command/order reluctantly shot and killed the dog with a high powered rifle. Upon Sgt. Hosp finding out about this, he was more than outraged and wanted Chief Roth charged with a criminal offense, as usual nothing was done.
- ❖ Chief Roth as a leader does not even back his own officer' safety. For example, on an incident that occurred several years ago at the Full Moon Saloon. There was a very severe bar fight in progress, 4 Caseyville Officers arrived and became entangled in this dangerous fight. Two of the officers were injured in the fight and the female suspect was arrested and charged with felony battery to a police officer. Once again, because of Chief Roth's personal relationship with this female suspect, he contacted the States Attorney and had the charges reduced from a felony battery on a police officer to a misdemeanor charge and she was released from jail. This is official misconduct.
- ❖ In 2006-2007 Chief Roth enacted a 10.00 dollar bond fee, for all cash bond received at this department. He did this without notifying village officials, without it becoming a village resolution or ordinance. No village official, most notably the treasurer or clerk was made aware this money was being collected. Because of

this Chief Roth used this collection of bond fee money as his own personal fund of cash for personal use. Chief Roth used this money over a period of about 3 years for personal lunches, personal activities, to get personal items of his repaired, and for such things as to attend a personal scuba diving class in Creve Coeur, MO. Officers have the original receipts and proof of the misuse of this money. This is theft and official misconduct.

- ❖ Caseyville Officers were recently dispatched to a residence of a suicidal subject. When officers arrived the suicidal subject came towards the officers with an axe. The suicidal subject also had rope around his neck and a Do Not Resuscitate Order Form stapled to his shirt. The subject was off his medication and drinking. Chief Roth showed up with a shot gun loaded with bean bag rounds. Officers were able to talk the subject into dropping the axe. Officers wanted to take the guy into custody at that time but Roth advised not to. Instead the subject agreed to go inside with Roth only. This was against the wishes of the officers due to the circumstances and the subject begin familiar with his home and possible weapons. Officers followed the Chief and subject inside the residence where Roth allowed the subject to control the scene. Roth allowed the subject into a bedroom, to take a swig of liquor, and to pick up a glass ashtray and raise it in a manner to throw it towards the officers. During this time Roth set his shot gun down on the subject's couch in close proximity to the suicidal subject where he could possibly gain access to it. Another officer grabbed Roth's shot gun and secured it. Roth then permitted the suicidal subject to go to the bathroom. When the subject got up from a recliner he ran towards and bedroom where he grabbed a knife and was eventually tased. The subject was still not handcuffed at the direction of Roth. While at the scene Roth put officers at danger/risk on 5 separate occasions. 1) Not utilizing the bean bag gun when the subject was armed with the axe 2) Allowing the subject inside the residence without handcuffs 3) Allowing the subject to control the scene, sit down in a recliner, drink more alcohol, not be handcuffed, and pick up a glass ashtray 4) Setting his shot gun on the subjects couch 5) Permitting the guy to move around the house and eventually running to grab a knife and still not be handcuffed. When Roth is on scene of an incident he is consistently lost, confused, and out of touch with modern day law enforcement methods and tactics. Roth makes situations worse and complicates calls and incidents by interceding.
- ❖ Chief Roth files petitions with the court in regards to obtaining firearms. Roth then takes the firearms to his friend who is a gun dealer. In exchange for dealing with a large amount of weapons seized by Caseyville Police Officers, the gun dealer gives Chief personal deals. This is abuse of his authority, personally gaining from his official capacity as a police chief, and official misconduct.
- ❖ Chief Roth gets his personal vehicle services and cleaned at the same businesses the police department holds accounts to have police vehicles serviced and cleaned. He does this because of personal deals he gets from management for bringing business to them through the police department. Personal gain through his official capacity as a police chief and official misconduct.
- ❖ Clerks at Lowes in Fairview Heights, Illinois have made complaints that Roth was receiving military discounts at their store although Roth has never been in the

military. This is a criminal offense. It is unethical to falsely identify yourself as a veteran to get discounts when there are veteran's dieing for our country and ours and his safety.

- ❖ Chief Roth was double dipping with the police department and SILEC. Now he takes off work on the days he works at SILEC for firearms training. Then he comes in for a few hours on his scheduled off days but claims 8 or more hours when he is at home or else where. He does not put in his full hours but somehow gets his full pay and accumulates comp time. Theft from the Village and Official misconduct
- ❖ A sexual harassment complaint was recently filed with the St. Clair County Sheriff's department in reference to Roth sexually harassing females in his firearm's classes
- ❖ A complaint was made by a store clerk at a gas station in Caseyville in reference to sexual harassment by Chief Roth
- ❖ Roth will not assist Officers on incidents or calls but if it involves an attractive female or a friend he consistently shows up to intervene and then hands out his personal cellular phone number to females when it is not necessary to the incident or call
- ❖ Most recently Chief Roth personally took over a personal investigation into Bradley Vanhoose. Roth took this case into his own hands from the Dept. investigator after being advised it was a civil/personal issue and he did not want to be involved. The States Attorney declined the case already and advised Village Attorney Duane Clark to file a civil no contact order against Vanhoose. Even though this matter was a closed issue Chief Roth continued to criminally investigate Mr. Vanhoose for personal reasons. Chief Roth went so far as to contact SWIC to obtain personal information on Bradley Vanhoose and told SWIC officers the investigation was ongoing. Roth contacted an acquaintance a female Sgt. at SWIC and had her obtain the personal information from SWIC records, video systems and computer records. This information was obtained illegally and without a proper warrant or subpoena. Roth was able to convince this female Sgt. to go ahead and give him this information, it was in violation of college privacy act. By doing this we learned that it may have cost the female Sgt. her position as a SWIC police officer. Also, Chief Roth has continued to pressure the department investigator to write reports on follow up work that Roth has done, not doing it himself for political reasons. What he is asking the investigator to do is unethical and illegal because Roth is asking him to falsely write reports on a report he closed in January of this year. Like in so many instances Chief Roth continues this for personal reasons only and \not for legitimate law enforcement purposes. Now the Chief of SWIC has opened a case and investigating this matter of illegally obtaining this information and why it was obtained in the first place.
- ❖ Chief Roth has openly expressed his gender discrimination by stating that females do not have a place in law enforcement. Chief Roth has openly made racial slurs and a complaint was filed in the past because he called an interracial infant "Hammer" referring to the baby as the African American Rapper "MC Hammer"
- ❖ Chief Roth has made open comments about other officer's wives. He called Robert Belba's wife a whore and said Belba was getting sloppy seconds. He

called Frank Moore's wife a prostitute. He consistently degrades officers in front of other officers attacking them personally

- ❖ Chief Roth took his black unmarked squad car to Collinsville to have LED lights installed but turned down an offer for free LED lights for the patrol cars
- ❖ Chief Roth has better equipment than patrol officers when it is the patrol officers who put in a majority of the work and Roth does not conduct any patrol duties so it is unreasonable for him to have such equipment just to drive to and from home
- ❖ All Caseyville Patrol Officers are held to a higher standard than Chief Roth when a leader and head of a department should lead by example. It is Chief Roth's credo to do as I say and not as I do
- ❖ By the Village Officials allowing these claims to continue, they are condoning the unlawful and unethical acts
- ❖ By the Village Officials allowing Chief Roth to continually harass and target officers in a personal way and violate policy and constitutional law, they are making themselves civilly liable.
- ❖ In a department meeting in March 2012 in front of most of the officers he told Sgt. Miller the city did not like landlords who had low income HUD housing. This was directed at Sgt Miller due to him having several properties falling under HUD housing. This was a discriminatory and unprofessional statement to which the Village could be held liable. Also, we are familiar with the fact that the Mayor's son has some HUD housing property.
- ❖ Chief Roth hangs out regularly at Hooters in Fairview Heights, Illinois and has directed department detectives to have traffic citations dismissed in exchange for personal gain.

In closing, it is the feeling of the entire police department the current Chief be relieved of his duties or asked to resign/retire to resolve these serious issues. It is common knowledge within the department that Chief Roth runs the entire department based on his feelings and for personal reasons in every instance. Chief Roth is failing the department on every level and the department continues to decline while no one takes action. Also, it is common knowledge that the department has lost and continues to lose experienced, educated well rounded police officers to other departments, just because they do not want to work for Chief Roth. It is our hope that the Mayor and Police Committee trustees will finally take the appropriate action and this matter can be resolved without involving all local media outlets and all the appropriate state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Respectfully, Caseyville Police Department FOP Lodge #139 members: