

October 11, 2006

Letter to the Editor of the Express Times:

Notwithstanding several news articles on the selection of a new Chief of Police in Fountain Hill, I wish to assure residents of the Borough that the selection process has been open, fair and strictly in accordance with the applicable law.

The Police Committee, consisting of three (3) members of Borough Council, the Mayor, Acting Chief and the Executive Secretary, carefully reviewed the applications of the twenty-one (21) individuals applying for the position. The applicants included a State Police Criminal Investigator, three (3) Sergeants, seven (7) current or retired Police Chiefs, one (1) Captain of a Department in a City with a population of 100,000, five (5) Lieutenants, one (1) parole agent, one (1) U.S. Dept. of Defense Explosives Expert and two (2) part time Fountain Hill Patrolmen.

After such careful consideration, the Police Committee met and unanimously agreed to interview five of the candidates. However, one of the candidates withdrew his application.

The four (4) candidates were interviewed by the Committee and after further consideration by the Committee, it was determined that four of the Candidates were considered very close and the Committee decided that all four candidates should return for a second interview with the entire Borough Council.

This procedure will allow Borough Council to select the most qualified candidate for the position.

The selection of a Chief of Police is to be non-political and Borough Council has proceeded on a non-political basis and it is unfortunate that this process engendered unnecessary newspaper coverage.

**Lawrence Rapp, President
Fountain Hill Borough Council**