



CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT

BUREAU OF POLICE

Investigations Division Commander

Throughout the process of working on and developing a rental ordinance for the City of Williamsport, I have heard numerous references made by individuals regarding me being young. I am not sure what that means to those individuals regarding my ability to serve them but perhaps my qualifications will stand alone and speak for themselves.

- 1997-1998 I was a patrolman with the Lebanon Police Department in Lebanon TN.
- 1998-2005 I was a patrolman with the Williamsport Police department. As a patrolman I was assigned as a community police officer in the Timberland apts area as well as the fifth avenue corridor of the city. I also later served as a K-9 handler during this period of time and was an active member of the LCDTF.
- 2005-2007 I was promoted to the rank of Corporal
- 2007-2008 I was promoted to the rank of Agent and assigned to the Criminal Investigations unit.
- 2018-2010 I was promoted to Sergeant and spearheaded the formation of the Special operations Group commonly referred to as SOG.
- 2010-2012 I was promoted to Lieutenant.
- 2012-present I was promoted to the rank of Captain
- I have currently held every rank with the exception of Chief of Police and have served in every capacity that our police department has to offer.
- Prior to my law enforcement career, I was a fourth round draft pick of the San Diego Padres
- I possess a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Cumberland University in Lebanon Tennessee.
- I was an academic all American while playing baseball for Cumberland University.

- I am the son of a two (2) time police chief for the Williamsport Bureau of Police and have two (2) brothers who have worked on the Corrections side of the criminal justice system for many years.

Some people are asking what is taking so long in bringing forth this ordinance that we have been talking about for over a year. In my experience, I have learned that no matter how large or small a problem the process to resolve it remains similar. **The first step is to step back and examine the problem.** This allows you to determine if the problem is really a problem or if it is a symptom of some unidentified issue.

In our cities case we are seeing a situation that is eerily similar to what occurred in the late 1980's where we were facing a crack cocaine epidemic, our jails were full and the system was looking for ways to solve this issue as mass incarceration was not working. It is now 2013 and we are facing a heroin epidemic, our jails are full and the system is looking for ways to solve this issue as mass incarceration is not working. It is not stopping the flow of illegal drugs and their ill social effects into our community. Our solution to rely totally on the police didn't work in 1989, and it won't work now. It is also important to note that from the late 1980's until present day the number of rental properties popping up throughout our city was increasing as many people were fleeing the City looking for higher ground.

Do we have a rental based crime problem in the City of Williamsport? **YES**
The facts speak for themselves and the data makes this crystal clear unless you are not listening to what the data is telling us.

Is our community plagued by chronic drug related criminal problems frequently based in rental properties? **YES**

Does the number of complaints being received regarding illegal drug activity outweigh law enforcements capacity to respond? **YES**

The second step to resolve a problem once it is identified is to form solutions in order to solve the problem. Crucial to this step is to consider each solution and weigh the impact the solution may have and the likelihood that the solution WILL work. I have taken careful consideration of applying due diligence to this remedy because I believe that it is that important to our citizens. As a result I have completed many revisions of this document to ensure that we put our best effort forth in an attempt to formulate a long term solution that WILL work and that does have the best interest of our residents at heart.

In no way am I referring to all persons who rent as second class citizens. At one point in my life I too was forced to rent due to economic factors that did not make it feasible for me to own a home. Many people who rent are hard working citizens and they too deserve a city that is safe for them and their children to enjoy. The bottom line is that both homeowners and those who rent are affected in one way or another by the chronic erosion of their neighborhoods as a result weak management of rental properties by **some**

not all who own rental properties. One property that is weakly managed or not managed at all can ruin an entire neighborhood. There is no simple way to present this information to the public at large without someone taking offense or misunderstanding the intent or what is being stated. There are many good landlords who do an excellent job at managing their properties. Likewise there are some very good tenants who are a landlords dream to rent to. However, as a result of those who are not, our entire community is plagued by the lack of accountability which directly causes the erosion of our neighborhoods and jeopardizes all of our citizen's safety.

If we fail to see the importance of this difficult but necessary measure and hesitate to act NOW especially in regards to the heroin epidemic that we are facing may God help our City. With each day that we fail to act, HEROIN is digging in deeper and more and more dealers and users are flooding into our city and CASHING in on our refusal to take a hard stance and draw a line in the sand. As we continue to disagree and allow our feelings to be hurt our citizens are dying and falling victim to an epidemic that is going to make the crack cocaine epidemic look like it was candy being fed to hyper children.

Captain Timothy S. Miller

THIS MESSAGE IS APPROVED BY MAYOR GABRIEL CAMPANA