

RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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February 11, 2010

Mr. Steve Cook
1138 Hunters Court
Arden Hills, MN 55112-3710

Dear Mr. Cook:

I am the Chief Deputy of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and the supervisor of the Internal Affairs Unit. On January 18, 2010 I received a copy of your complaint from the Minnesota Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training. Per policy, I conducted an inquiry of your concerns.

Your letter raised two concerns. First you stated,

"Robert Fletcher used Ramsey County funds to send letters out to hundreds of people to fund raise for private companies to solicit \$150 from us."

"It cost Ramsey County a lot of money to buy the paper to print the letter on, use multicolor ink for printing the letter, to buy the envelopes and also the postage. And it cost employee's time to: (format the letter, get the names from the secured database, print the letter, stuff the envelope, address the envelope and mail it)."

In regards to this first issue, I have not found any violation of department policy. The expenditure of "money" for this purpose is not regulated by the Sheriff's Department's "Improper Conduct Policy" nor is it forbidden by any other county policy. Under Minnesota Statutes a Sheriff has broad discretion in expenditure of funds as long as they are related to public safety and county purchasing procedures are followed. Consequently I am not able to sustain this complaint.

Secondly you stated,

"I understand fund raising to raise money for law enforcement tools like radar detectors or bullet proof vests, and the fire department raising money for equipment too, but it needs to be related to their job. I never went to shoot, but I signed up to see what the next step was. It was an email that I attached to this letter."

In regards to this second issue, I have not found any violation of department or county policy. Ramsey County has a long history of encouraging employees and citizens to support charitable organizations serving the needs of Ramsey County residents. As an example, the county's "charitable giving

campaign” is just one of those partnerships. Consequently I am not able to sustain this portion of your complaint.

Your letter did not raise the issue of “Data Practices,” however; I want you to know that a “Data Practices” complaint is being investigated by the St. Paul Police Department. I will advise you regarding the disposition of that complaint as soon as there is one.

Thank you for your letter. While I am not able to sustain your complaint, it is always helpful to hear from citizens regarding matters of concern to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Metusalem". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Dave Metusalem
Chief Deputy
Ramsey County Sheriff's Department

Cc: Minnesota POST Board