

To: Bishop City Council, Sierra Wave Media, The Inyo Register, KIBS/KBOV, The Reader,
The Mammoth Times, The Sheet, The Ridgecrest Daily Independent

Date: September 16, 2015

LETTER OF NO CONFIDENCE IN BISHOP POLICE CHIEF CHRIS CARTER

It is with great regret that we, the undersigned Officers of the Bishop Police Department, write this letter. Unfortunately circumstances leave us no choice. We have lost all trust, faith and confidence in Chief Chris Carter's ability to lead this Department and continue serving as Chief of Police.

By fostering an atmosphere of hostility, retaliation and unethical behavior Chief Carter has brought morale to an all-time low. Retention and recruitment of qualified personnel is suffering. That in turn jeopardizes the safety of the community. Chief Carter's unfair and inequitable treatment of Department personnel and his use of internal affairs investigations to intimidate Officers can no longer be tolerated.

The Bishop Police Department used to be one of great pride for those who work here and was looked upon by outside law enforcement Officers as a solid agency that was a desirable place to work. The Police Department recently hired a new Officer – the ONLY person according to Chief Carter to apply for the position. In this line of work, good Officers move towards problems, but not towards problem Departments.

Chief Carter has been involved for some time in a business and financial relationship with a sitting City Councilman and an Officer, formally a Sergeant, within this Department. The former Sergeant, and business partner of the Chief and City Councilman, was demoted back to the rank of Officer for misconduct involving lewd and obscene pictures taken with a Department issued cellular phone. The former Sergeant sent the pictures while on duty using his Department issued cellular phone to a female subordinate who was also on duty. This is common knowledge in the Department and within the community - it is not secret or confidential.

The complaint was made to the City Administrator rather than Chief Carter because it was well known at that time Chief Carter had a close personal relationship with the Officer. The close personal relationship, coupled with the business relationship, should have caused the Chief to completely remove himself from any involvement in the investigation; however, Chief Carter did not recuse himself from any and all involvement in his friend and business partner's investigation. Instead, Chief Carter ignored the most basic ethical and professional standards and insured he stayed well informed of the progress of the investigation.

After the investigation was completed and discipline was imposed, Chief Carter issued a written directive to all Department personnel threatening us with termination if we discussed the investigation with anyone – on or off duty.

The order was bullying and self-serving and clearly intended to protect his friends and business partners (and their business) from the harm and embarrassment that would obviously occur should such

