

March 12, 2021

Stevens Point Police and Fire Commission
C/O Commission President Gary Wescott
933 Michigan Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Police and Fire Commission Members,

I have received and thank you for the conditional offer for the position of Police Chief in the Stevens Point Police Department. After careful consideration I am formally withdrawing myself from this process. I'm humbled and honored that your commission and city had the confidence in me to be a leader for your police department.

With challenges surrounding restrictions on interpersonal interactions, calls for social justice reforms, reforms to policing, and trying to navigate creation of a new post-pandemic normal, the challenges faced by the PFC have been monumental throughout this process. The PFC should be commended on the process run under these circumstances and justified calls for reform. The questions, interactions, and conversations addressed current and future challenges, clearly expressed a movement toward progressive reforms, and explored the candidate's experiences with creating a positive, engaged, and inclusive culture within the community and the department. The process was clearly designed to find a qualified leader for the department and showed the dedication of the PFC as civic leaders.

My interactions with other department heads showed me the city is at a place where the various units are not only capable but qualified and ready to work with one another. The government leader's questions were aimed at evaluating the ability of the police department to engage in a multitude of functions aside from a traditional law enforcement duties. It was clear to me your city work units are prepared and willing to work together with a progressive police department to effect positive change throughout the city.

While there are complex reasons for my decision not to accept this position, I wish the Stevens Point Police Department and the City of Stevens Point the best. The residents of the city and the employees of the department deserve a strong leader who will serve them well, express their talents and strengths, as well as help develop flaws and weaknesses. I wish you, the PFC, the best of luck in finding a candidate that fits the needs of the department and takes pride in being a community leader.

Thank you,

Brent Plisch