



# Wausau Police Department

## The Informer

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### GOODNESS

I'm not really sure what to say, but I want our community to know how I feel. If I were to sum it up in one sentence I would say "I believe in the goodness of people." I know that seems like a Pollyanna perspective, but it's the truth. That isn't to say I feel like that every second of every day. Or that I don't find myself at times angry, frustrated, defensive, exasperated or maybe even hopeless. But I KNOW there is way more good than bad in this world... it's just sometimes hard to remember.

No matter what "side" you find yourself on as we talk about law enforcement use of force in our country, I am confident the overwhelming majority of us want the same things. I want to live in a world where police do not have to use lethal force. Where people are not scared of the police. Where racism does not exist. I want to live in a world where judgments are made based on facts. Where facts are provided very quickly and accurately. Where I feel confident that justice will be (and has been) served. I want to live in a world where there is no oppression. Where people do not feel like they have

to riot in order to have their voice heard. And where police officers are not condemned or physically attacked for their chosen profession.

We might not be able to change the world, but we can SET AN EXAMPLE for the world in our own community. Whether you are rich or poor, Black, Asian, Native American, Hispanic, or White, Democrat or Republican, progressive or conservative, young or old, high school education or PhD, or ANYTHING else... PLEASE KNOW THAT I BELIEVE IN YOU and IN THE VALUE OF YOUR LIFE. You have something to offer this community. I do NOT expect you to compromise your values. Rest assured that I won't either.



But we can all work to understand the issues facing our community and commit to action that makes our community a better place.

Our community is filled with good hearts. Great hearts. I will commit to anybody in our community that I will open my heart to you and start with the presumption that your intentions are good. Let's engage in conversation about where we are today, where we need to go, and how to get there.

The Mayor's Task Force on policing is about to begin. I strongly encourage everyone on our staff to pay attention to the discussions by this Task Force. They will be available on the city website. Keep striving for excellence and coming to work with the same values you have since you were hired. We have people of character in this organization who take great pride in this work. I think we have seen that we might not be able to change the hearts and minds of people who dislike us through our words. Over time, we can change hearts and minds through our actions. Stay strong, stay safe, and serve relentlessly.



"A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." *Lao Tzu*

"Strength grows in the moments when you think you can't go on, but you keep going anyway." *Unknown*

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." *Jane Goodall*

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better." *Maya Angelou*

"May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." *Peter Marshall*

# Acknowledgements and Other News

## Boys and Girls Club



We love our interactions with the Boys and Girls Club of Wausau! Officer Michael Bedish did some dancing with the kids and staff one sunny day. And then we were the recipients of some beautiful sunflowers from them!



# Acknowledgements and Other News

Wait, shouldn't that be bigger?



In our planters, we have some melon... Our watermelons look ready, but for their diminutive size is not conducive to sharing. Our friends Mary Thao and Yee Leng Xiong decided to give us something larger to try, and presented us with a jackfruit. It provided us with plenty to share through the staff and was a great opportunity to try something new! Thank you so much!

