



Dear Portage Resident,

Following some statements that have been made on my position for Sheriff, I would like to clarify and give you my direct point of view. I am Bruce Zuchowski and have been made aware that there may be some confusion on my position and qualifications for Portage County Sheriff. First of all, I am not looking to run the office as stated in the comments as a "Good Ol' Boy system". Throughout my entire career with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, we followed policies and procedures and were always held accountable to them. It is important to focus on the people we serve and to carry out our duties without any special treatment or prejudice, and maintain equal justice for all.

As for my experience and vision of the jail, I am fully aware that this is a large responsibility. I have reviewed the budget, spoken to many of the staff that works there, and understand many of the issues that have developed over the years has been a result of poor direction and leadership. In fairness to the current Sheriff and staff, there was a large interruption with the construction of new jail area and many hurdles had to be crossed while getting situated and settled in. My credibility and knowledge about jail operations was questioned. Throughout my career with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, we were responsible for all investigations in Ohio state prisons which house the worst of the worst offenders and in much larger numbers than local county jail populations. With this experience I believe that I am more than qualified to understand the needs and procedures to run an efficient and structured jail.

Many have stated that I am not political enough. I am the furthest thing from a politician and believe this position is about law and order to serve the people – not politics. Unfortunately, the Sheriff position is part of the political process but it should not be about a political party or affiliation but rather who is best qualified for the job.

Not only for myself but for all candidates, this election cycle has been difficult to navigate while we adapt to a new form of campaigning contrary to the "normal" way that campaigning has been done before. Even given the regulations I have gone door to door meeting residents and have spent the last 4 weeks meeting people while putting out over 2,500 campaign signs. As I have been accused of not being available or transparent - this is the furthest thing from the truth. I have had numerous fundraisers open to everyone, I have published dates and times that I was available for people to stop by at the party headquarters, and I hosted and sponsored the largest first responders appreciation event for Portage County that was attended by over 400 people on October 3rd.

Many people have asked my opinion on my opponent's position after he was observed at a demonstration holding a Black Lives Matter sign. My response is simple; my entire career and my entire life has always been about caring for everyone. I have served with all races, ethnicities and religions and always stood proud to serve with them. I have not nor will I change my beliefs or demonstrate to appease any group to try and manipulate someone's thinking for a vote. I will always stand as a proud and true American who loves and respects our country.

I am hopeful that this clarifies my position and view on this Portage County Sheriff race. If there are any questions or concerns, I invite you to contact me directly through Facebook or through my website. I am hopeful to serve this county as Sheriff and I will not disappoint your decision to vote for me November 3rd.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bruce Zuchowski'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.