

## Handy Announces Campaign for City Marshal

Chris Handy of Monroe picked his 42nd birthday Wednesday to announce he's running against Monroe City Marshal Wince Highshaw.

Handy said he's not backing down even though the intimidation has already started.

Handy said at his announcement at the La Quinta Inn, "There is more to being city marshal than serving paper."

Part of his plan is for the department to give back to the community, and he promised to return 30 percent of the salary he would receive back to department employees.

"It's not right for one man to keep that kind of salary while the employees are barely getting by," Handy said.

He also mentioned no threats would keep him from running, which brought questions from the media.

Handy said Highshaw had called him and left a message on his answering machine saying he had something for him. According to Handy, when he returned the call Highshaw indicated "he had a file that would destroy me."

Handy, who is a minister and most recently worked as a youth program mentor at Monroe City Court, said there's nothing in his past "to hide from this community."

Handy also said he worked until about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday and when he got up later in the morning his truck had been egged. He reported the incident to Monroe police.

There was no answer at Highshaw's home telephone after Handy's announcement.

Having been around Monroe City Court for the last six years, Handy said one of his top priorities would be court security he described as lax.

"There is only one person at the X-ray machine on court days, and people have gotten into the courtroom with knives in their pockets," Handy said.

He also said people have walked into the courtroom from a side door, "and that's got to stop."

Handy said he would like to establish another mentoring program for youths, one that would reunite them with their fathers.

## Region10 News

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Chris Handy wants to be elected Monroe City Marshall this fall.

He says when word of his intentions reached the current marshall- Wince Highshaw- a campaign of intimidation began.

Chris Handy says the city of Monroe needs serious changes in the city marshall's office.

Handy just announced his campaign tonight but says threatening phone calls and acts of vandalism intended to force him from the race have already begun.

Chris Handy: "I announce my candidacy for city marshall".

When Monroe voters visit the polls next October Chris Handy wants them to elect him Monroe Marshall.

He tells us, "I believe we need change. A while back when one of the deputies, the chief deputy was arrested".

Handy is referring to an incident that occurred in mid May. Robert Cherry the chief deputy for the Monroe City Marshall's Office was arrested wearing his uniform, charged with possession of marijuana, illegal possession of a firearm, not using a turn signal and resisting an officer.

Chris Handy: "It gave a bad reflection on the Marshall's office and the leadership".

Handy says not long after he decided to run for marshall he received a phone call from the city's current marshall- Wince Highshaw.

The phone call transcript: "Handy, this is Highshaw, I called you on yesterday which is June the 9th. Today is June the 10th around 11:20. I would think all I've tried to do for you and tried to help you that you would be more loyal to me but uh, it's very important that you call me if you, if this is what you want to do, you know it's a free world and uh you can do what you want to do but I think it's very important that you call me because I got something that I need you to see I can get you a copy if you'd like me to but it's very important that you call me. Real important. Bye".

Chris Handy: "So I called him back".

Handy says Highshaw told him if he ran against him he would be sorry.

Chris Handy: "He had some type of file or letter that he would produce that would destroy me".

We contacted Highshaw and he admitted leaving Handy the message but when asked about the alleged intimidation he responded with a no comment.

Handy says Marshall Highshaw had plenty to say when they spoke.

Chris Handy: "He called me a fool, said that I was stupid".

Handy says the telephone call wasn't the only method of intimidation. He was out late

Tuesday night placing campaign signs all over the city. He got home late that night went to bed, got up on Wednesday morning, found someone had thrown dozens of eggs at his truck.

Chris Handy: "I felt that it's intimidation with the phone calls, the egging and I think that it's probably going to get worse'.

Chris Handy has never run for office before but he already knows how to make big campaign promises.

He says if elected marshall in October he'll give up 25 to 30% of his annual salary if it can be given instead to the men and women who work at the Monroe City Marshall's office.