

Minister Intimidated Not To Run For Public Office In Louisiana

Rev. Chris Handy wants to be elected Monroe City Marshal this fall in the city of Monroe in Louisiana. He says when word of his intentions reached the current Marshal- Wince Highshaw- a campaign of intimidation began. Chris Handy says the city of Monroe needs serious changes in the city marshal'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 marshal". When Monroe voters visit the polls next October Chris Handy wants them to elect him Monroe Marshal. 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 Marshal'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 Marshal's office and the leadership". Handy says not long after he decided to run for marshal he received a phone call from the city's current marshal- 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 marshal 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 Marshal's office.

Courtesy of Region10 News

For more information: KNOE-TV News

Chris Handy website: <http://www.chrishandyformarshal.homestead.com>