

OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW LONDON

The New London Police Department has been in a managerial crises since Margret Ackley assumed command of the police department. Ackley's actions and lack of executive level management skills and judgment have negatively affected police operations, employee morale and public safety for quite some time. Chief Ackley has made every attempt to deflect her managerial mishaps and the problems her lack of leadership and judgment have caused by dragging the police department into the political firestorm of the mayoral election. The New London Police union did endorse Mike Buscetto but the problems within the department did not start with that action.

At a recent city council meeting and in various BLOG comments and other places there seems to be public support for Chief Ackley. The majority of the men and women of the New London Police department are troubled that the public for some reason is not seeing the negative effects Ackley has created inside of the Police department.

Ackley is known for being out and about within the community which is an admirable action for a Chief of Police. However, Ackley is not out and about when it comes to her own people, this fact is best highlighted by the recent officer involved shooting.

On August 24, 2011 there was a serious criminal incident which resulted in an officer involved shooting. An officer involved shooting is the most serious incident a police department will face, New London has had two in less than six months. In the aftermath of a shooting many actions have to occur that require command presence and judgment and experience. The Chief will inevitably argue that her subordinates are more than capable of handling these situations. Given that Ackley has been an absentee chief why wouldn't they? Ackley's only contribution to this incident was appearing for the photo opportunity late in the evening.

At the critical moments of the recent shooting Ackley was more concerned with securing inflated retirement benefits than she was with the well being of her police officers and the public safety. The fact that Ackley lacked the command judgment to stop attending her personal needs and lead her department is disturbing. At a critical moment where Ackley could have demonstrated any leadership qualities she chose to remain at a City Council meeting and state that "I am no longer able to effectively lead this department". The majority of the men and women of the New London Police Department want the public to know that Margret Ackley has never effectively lead the New London Police department.

Given Ackley's admission that she cannot effectively lead the police department, she should immediately be relieved of any responsibilities as chief of police.

The men and women of the New London police department want the citizens of New London to know that they will continue to provide the highest levels of public safety and service and will not let an ineffective chief of police or city politics get in the way of their only mission, which is to keep the City of New London safe.

Signed,
New London Police Department Union
Local 724