



Press Release

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Bob Fletcher Files for Ramsey County Sheriff and Announces a Public Safety Agenda for 2020

[Ramsey County, Minnesota] This afternoon Bob Fletcher filed to run for Ramsey County Sheriff. The campaign will officially kickoff of tonight, starting at 5:30 pm, at Mancini's Char House in Saint Paul. Everyone is welcome to attend.

"As a lifelong Ramsey County resident, I care deeply about our county and the future of children," said Fletcher. "Today, I filed for Ramsey County Sheriff and announced a Public Safety Agenda for 2020." As sheriff, Bob is committed to bringing together a diverse team and working with the community to:

- **Implement a bold blueprint for detention reform.** "Reforming the detention system starts by recognizing the disparities experienced by people of color and the needs of inmates," said Fletcher. As Sheriff, Fletcher will implement a blueprint designed around the human needs of the incarcerated person. "Providing treatment and mental health services as well as addressing disparities will advance equity and achieve long-term goals," added Fletcher.
- **Restore juvenile crime prevention programs.** "Prevention programs can help children succeed and stay away from crime," said Fletcher. The current sheriff's administration has eliminated the youth crime prevention programs established under Fletcher's previous time as sheriff. As Sheriff, Fletcher will start offering juvenile crime prevention programs again. "I have always and will continue to value youth and prioritize their well-being. The future of our communities is dependent on the success of our children," added Fletcher.
- **Start using body cameras immediately to further community trust.** "I have conducted several audits of body camera systems in Minnesota and seen first-hand how community trust is increased," said Fletcher. The current interim sheriff has failed to implement a body camera system. As Sheriff, Fletcher will implement body-worn cameras immediately. "The Sheriff's Office is not keeping pace with best practices and we can change that," added Fletcher.
- **Expand the pool of persons eligible to become peace officers.** "To improve the policing profession, we need to expand the pool of persons eligible to become police officers," said Fletcher. As Sheriff, Fletcher will work to provide opportunities for members of our community to become officers who could not afford to attend college for law enforcement or who sought other opportunities earlier in their lives. "This will result in state licensed and well-trained officers and deputies of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and skills," added Fletcher.
- **Promote more women and persons of color to leadership.** "Ensuring the development of gender and racially diverse leaders must be a priority," said Fletcher. Today, there are no women serving on the interim sheriff's senior leadership team and racial and gender equity did not become a priority until it was an election year. The Sheriff's Office once led in diverse hiring. "Role models in executive positions are essential. There are benefits of a diverse leadership team and workforce to the Sheriff's Office and community," added Fletcher.
- **Address the opioid epidemic and lobby for treatment strategies.** "For the last eight years, the opioid crisis has ravaged Ramsey County," said Fletcher. During this time, the interim



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sheriff did nothing until it was an election year. As Sheriff, Fletcher will develop a coordinated regional plan to respond to the drug and opioid crisis. This includes lobbying for treatment strategies and advocating for legislative changes and funding. "As a parent of a child whose life was impacted by opioid use I know the terrible impacts it has on the lives of our children and our families," added Fletcher.

- **Restore professional management and labor relations.** "Since being appointed, local media has reported countless examples of mismanagement and poor labor relations [by the interim sheriff]," said Fletcher. Union workers advanced a vote of no confidence and several administrative and compliance errors surfaced. As Sheriff, Fletcher will form an Advisory Board and restore professional management with a focus on community service, labor relations, and transparency. "I will draw upon a team of experts to put public safety and community needs ahead of politics and publicly report on our progress," said Fletcher.

Full details of the Public Safety Agenda for 2020 will be discussed on the campaign trail and formal policy papers will be published and posted online. "These are critical times in criminal justice and we need everyone pulling together this November to address the needs of our community," said Fletcher.

About Bob Fletcher

Bob Fletcher is a lifelong Ramsey County resident, coach, and volunteer. A husband, father of four, and graduate of North Saint Paul High School and Hamline University, he is the current Mayor of Vadnais Heights and a retired Saint Paul Police Commander. In the 1980s he served two-terms on the Saint Paul City Council and was elected four times to serve as Ramsey County Sheriff.

Accomplishments as Ramsey County Sheriff

From 1994 to 2011, Bob served as the elected Ramsey County Sheriff. During his tenure, serious crime dropped by more than 20%. As Sheriff, Fletcher implemented several new initiatives, engaged in community outreach, and adopted early on the practice of hiring for diversity.

Public safety:

- Started sexual offender and career criminal monitoring
- Formed the Violent Crime Enforcement Team (VCET) with state grant funds
- Invested in a premier K-9 Unit who became national champions
- Expanded water patrol services
- Improved courthouse security
- Supported the Blueprint for Public Safety (domestic violence response)
- Spearheaded the building of the Law Enforcement Center, Adult Detention Center, and Patrol Station

Community outreach and prevention:

- Implemented community notification
- Launched meth prevention program
- Expanded citizens volunteers
- Served as a regional partner
- Provided school resource officers
- Secured millions in grant funds for prevention and intervention services

Families and children:

- Founded youth literacy and athletic programs
- Opened the curfew center
- Started safe school initiatives

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Media availability: Bob is available for interviews. Please contact 651-248-2400.