

November 18, 2002

OPEN LETTER TO CRIMINALS (AND TERRORISTS)

from Lake County Commissioner Gerry J. Scheub

We have entered into the 21st century with many changes across the country affecting our quality of life. The cowardly terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 sent a renewed spirit that came at a costly price to all Americans. We all take our freedom for granted while many countries live through this constant fear daily for their family's safety.

My letter addresses the terrorists who are in our country (completely different from those of September 11, 2001). I am speaking of the gangs, drug dealers, rapists, murderers, robbers and others who terrorize the innocent law-abiding citizen's every day. They are no better than the terrorists of September 11th. They prey on the innocent and treat life as if it had no value. These criminals (terrorists) have cost our country billions of dollars and we have not found an effective way to stop their reign of terror.

"We can actually reduce our property tax by 30% to 50% if we make our #1 goal to rid our county and society of the terrorists who have for so long controlled the lives of so many." - Commissioner Gerry J. Scheub

In Lake County, 75% of the county budget is related to crime. In the year 2000 alone we had a total of 18,559 crimes in Lake County. Multiply this across 92 counties and again times fifty states and you can see why I call these criminals "terrorists."

As Commissioner, I want to start a relentless pursuit. The objective is to eliminate every gang, drug dealer, murderer and rapist in lake County, Indiana. Prosecutor Bernard Carter and Sheriff-elect Roy Dominguez have the intelligence and ability to join hands with our courts and prosecute every criminal/terrorist to the full extent of the law.

These terrorists, when caught, need to have their freedom stricken from their rights. They need to have their freedom denied in the same way they deny the freedom of innocent citizens through their criminal actions.

Let us come out from behind the doors they have forced us to lock and put the same fear into them. It is time to put every available measure into action to show the state and the country that we can have the safest area in the world in which to raise a family, operate a business, and attend school and move freely about our great country without fear of these criminals.

Our jail should not be a comfortable destination for these criminals. The courts should send a strong message that convicted criminals have given up their rights and will pay for their wrong doing.

We can actually reduce our property tax by 30% to 50% if we make our #1 goal to rid our county and society of the terrorists who have for so long controlled the lives of so many. We need to free up our streets and neighborhoods of these parasites. All parents should get more involved with their children to help ensure that every child attends school and we eliminate the dropouts in today's society. Parents single and married should revert back to family values to take control of the future of our country's youth, their children. Don't take a chance in spending every week visiting your children in our juvenile center or jail. Spend every opportunity with your children. Stamp out drugs and crime now. Your children deserve your leadership and you have a responsibility in forming their thoughts and life styles.

When we clean up our county and rid it of the drug dealers, gang members, murderers and other low-life types, we will force positive change in Lake County, such as:

- We will have the money to rebuild an infrastructure which will help bring back the manufacturing jobs lost over the past 25 years.
- We will have a competitive edge on other counties and other areas of the state and country due to lower taxes.
- Our educational system will improve as more children will be in school to learn.
- Students will clearly recognize the opportunity and financial rewards that are there for them with a dedication to education.

I challenge every citizen everyone in Lake County to be the best they can be by joining in sending this message to these criminals:

All you terrorists out there, Beware! You have time to change but it must be now. Your time on earth is very short. Think about your life and how you are wasting it. Look into a mirror, see for yourself if there is not a terrorist looking back at you. Are you proud that you are costing your families the quality of life through your thoughtless deeds? You are enabling foreign terrorists to gain the confidence they need to infiltrate our country. You have cost our country billions of dollars which could have benefited you – could have assisted you and your family. Please, take up residence in another country and see how fast you would be punished for taking advantage of innocent people. Your terrorizing has cost every child educational opportunities. Your terrorizing has cost every taxpayer valuable dollars used to pay for our detention systems and courts. This money could have been used to improve the lives of every American. Remember, if you are a criminal you are no better than the terrorists who cowardly attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001. Are you proud of your actions, or are you just plain sick? God help all of you because you have no values left. Just ask yourself this: "Am I proud to be considered a terrorist?"

**--Gerry J. Scheub, President
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