

Sgt. Wood explains her role in guns-on-campus, bias bill hearing (2.11.14):

Good conversation today and I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in. Not sure where Dix is getting their info but at no time was I in conflict with the Chief of Police while serving on the CDA School Board and serving as a supervisor of the School Resource Officers. The three Chiefs I worked for during my years as a SB member were Chief Cronin, Chief Carpenter, and Chief Longo. They were all very supportive of my volunteer role in the community and found the relationship with the schools to be an asset to the Department.

As to my different roles- I am the Law Enforcement Liaison to the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations. DFO is correct in his statement that LE has a long history of being a working member of the Task Force. In the early 1980's Undersheriff Larry Broadbent was instrumental in identifying members of the Order responsible for many violent crimes including the bombing of the Federal Building in downtown CDA. Local FBI agents have been very involved with the Task Force as well as retired prosecutor Glen Walker, Bill Douglas and our current prosecutor Barry McHugh who has taken a strong stance in prosecuting hate crimes. I took over the LE liaison position from former Sheriff Rocky Watson and I am proud to serve an organization that focuses on the prevention and prosecution of hate crimes.

Yesterday I was called to speak to the Mayor and Council as an employee of the Police Department. I am the Law Enforcement liaison to the legislative committee that advises the Mayor and Council on pending legislation that could have potential impact on the City of CDA. I presented the views of the Chief of Police who does not support the guns on campus bill in its current form. As a practice when testifying before Mayor and Council our officers are in uniform as a show of respect.

During the workshop I was asked by Councilman Gookin to provide my insight as a NIC Trustee. I shared with him the views of the Majority of the Board. The bottom line is everyone is having productive conversation about how to keep our campus safe. The NIC Trustees are exploring ideas and possible changes to our weapons policy. We hope to keep our policy decisions at a local level where we can best assess the safety practices of our campus.