

Police Chief Statement
by John Bennett, City Manager
September 7, 2010

After a thorough process and thoughtful deliberation, I am appointing Elaine Snow as Police Chief and ask the City Commission to confirm my appointment. I am convinced that Elaine is the best qualified and best fit for our department of all the applicants.

We started the application process in March of this year and received 42 applications. We narrowed the field to 19 and asked them to submit responses to a list of questions. Along with Rita Odom, Human Resources Director, and Sammy Rich, Assistant City Manager, I reviewed the applications and responses to the questions and we selected 10 for personal interviews. Five of those interviewed were internal and to the credit of our department, all five more than met the minimum qualifications of the position. We narrowed the list to five and conducted another round of interviews with three internal and two external candidates. We were fortunate to have a large number of qualified candidates to choose from.

The criteria we used for our evaluation included: education, special training, experience, strategic thinking and ability to make changes, community involvement, responses at the interviews, fit with the department, fit with other city departments and management, fit with community, support of and experience with National Accreditation, professional affiliations, relationship with other police agencies, references, commitment to Rome and Floyd County, and moral character. All of the characteristics were considered an important part of our deliberations. Elaine Snow ranked high in all areas.

As I stated, all five internal candidates and many of the external candidates were well qualified but Elaine came out on top when all things were considered and is my recommendation for Chief.

Two things that were reinforced by all those interviewed was that Rome is well respected among city and county governments and the Rome Police Department has a reputation for being a well-trained and professional police department.

I look forward to working directly with Chief Snow as a team member and we have already discussed several areas to focus on for improvement. Police work is not easy but I am confident that Elaine is up to the task and will serve this community and the department in a very professional manner.