

TO:
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
Bill Waller, City Administrator

CC:
Tyler Benish
Kara Tarrence

FROM: La Crescent Police Department (sworn staff)

DATE: 12/30/2025

RE: Vote of No Confidence in Chief Luke Ahlschlager

This letter is submitted as a formal statement in a vote of no confidence in Police Chief Luke Ahlschlager. Each sworn officer has indicated their vote in the matter of no confidence on the following page.

This action has not been taken hastily nor without careful consideration. Over the past several years, recurring issues under Chief Ahlschlager's leadership have resulted in serious concerns related to:

1. Leadership and Administrative Judgment – Persistent patterns of decision-making that have diminished officer trust and confidence in command-level direction.
2. Workplace Culture and Morale – A substantial decline in internal morale attributable to inconsistent communication, lack of transparency, and a workplace climate that has left many officers feeling unsupported and undervalued.
3. Operational Effectiveness – Interference, lack of clarity, and inconsistent supervisory direction have impacted daily operations, officer performance, and organizational structure.
4. Professional Standards and Conduct – Conduct and leadership practices that officers believe fall short of the ethical and professional expectations required of a Chief of Police.

These issues, individually and cumulatively, have eroded the credibility of the Chief's leadership and have compromised the confidence of the department's sworn staff. The result has been declining morale, disruption of operational stability, and concerns about the long-term health of the organization and the community we serve.

We respectfully request that the City initiate a full administrative review of Chief Ahlschlager's leadership, conduct, and performance. As part of an investigation, all sworn staff are willing to speak on-the-record with any administrative, legal, and/or other official(s) of the City of La Crescent.

Our priority remains providing high-quality policing services to the residents of La Crescent, and we believe corrective administrative action is necessary to restore trust, transparency, and stability.

We remain committed to cooperating fully and professionally throughout any subsequent review process.

Respectfully submitted,

Sworn Officers
La Crescent Police Department

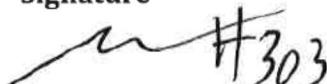
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Vote of No Confidence

La Crescent Police Department

Vote of No Confidence in Chief Luke Ahlschlager

All sworn staff of the La Crescent Police Department were present for discussion and drafting of the no confidence statement. Officers indicating a yes vote are in agreeance with the statement as submitted. Officers indicating a no vote are in disagreement with the statement as submitted. Officers indicating an abstained vote are acknowledging the statement and their presence during discussion and drafting, but refrain from voting in favor of or against the statement.

Officer Name	Vote	Signature	Date
Sgt. Michael Ernster #303	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		1-5-26
Cpl. Roth Clark #306	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		12-30-2025
Officer Cody Bellock #302	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		12/30/25
Investigator Tanner Weinfurtner #304	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		12/30/25
Officer Kaleb Peterson #305	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		1/1/26
Officer Darin Daveau #307	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		12/30/25
Officer Joshua DeBoer #308	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Abstained		12/30/2025
Officer Bryce Helke #309	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstained		12/30/2025