

I first would like to apologize to all the citizens of Yellow Springs and any other citizen from out of town who attended the New Year's Eve ball drop. I know that the actions of the officers on scene damaged the trust and relationship the police department shares with the community.

I have reviewed the in car camera footage and the reports from the officers and upon initial evaluation, I cannot determine any circumstances that would justify the officers on scene during the New Year's Eve celebration shutting down the event early. After the officers on scene made a very poor decision to shut the event down early, they compounded the error by using extremely poor tactics utilizing their cruisers, sirens and horns instead of being on foot, trying to verbally gain compliance.

Two of the officers on duty during the New Year's Eve event, had worked New Year's Eve, which has historically not only been an event that allows the community to mingle and bond, but also allows the police department personnel to meet residents and promote community relations. Going into this year's event, there was no reason to believe New Years' Eve would be any different. With that in mind, I realized and approved the event to happen with the four officers and no supervisor. In retrospect, this is a decision that I clearly regret. Clearly this year, any positive influence gained during the past years has been shattered.

I have determined that the New Year's Eve events have so outraged numerous citizens of Yellow Springs, many of whom I know to be level headed and supporters of police, that I believe the best way to heal the rift is for me to resign from my position effective immediately.

I have found my time as Chief to at times be trying, but overall I found it to be a positive experience, meeting many warm and wonderful people and I found many small-town, heartwarming activities that I will surely miss.

I would ask that the citizens of Yellow Springs attempt to look at the overall actions of the Yellow Springs Police Department over the years, during events such as Street Fair and the Fourth of July celebration and prior New Year's Eve ball drops instead of focusing of the inexcusable events from this year.

 1-3-2017
David S. Hale