

Patagonia marshal says he didn't criticize probe - Bulletin (Nogales, AZ) - July 30, 2018

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Patagonia Marshal Joseph Patterson is insisting he did not criticize the ongoing investigation into the fatal police shooting of a Patagonia resident after he was quoted by a Lake Havasu City newspaper as saying his confidence in the probe "is low" and that he has questions about the investigative process.

"I have questions and I have (my) free speech and that is that. Just like the paper can print what they want. First Amendment, it is on the Constitution. I am certain you have read it," Patterson wrote in an email to the NI on Monday in which he rejected the idea that he had spoken critically of the investigation

"If you want to talk to me about your sister paper's 'headline' or 'click bait,' do not bother," he wrote in regard to an article published last weekend by the Today's News-Herald, a Lake Havasu-based paper that is partly owned by Wick Communications, which owns the NI.

The story, "Patagonia town marshal blasts Havasu police shooting investigation," quoted an email from Patterson regarding the Kingman Police Department's investigation into an incident on July 25 in which Lake Havasu City Police Department officers fatally shot 56-year-old **Brent Bowdon** of Patagonia while responding to an apparent domestic disturbance call in their jurisdiction. KPD, which is leading the investigation, has yet to release the names of the officers or say why they shot Bowdon, a well-known Patagonia businessman.

"I could care less how they portray me with a headline. All the hate calls and support calls, I answer them. Some have been entertaining and I am not scared of Havasu (Police Department) or anyone," Patterson wrote on Monday.

The marshal told the News-Herald that he went to Lake Havasu City, approximately 370 miles from Patagonia, the same day as the early-morning shooting to secure Bowdon's rented home and belongings, and drive Bowdon's wife back to Patagonia. The following day, he reportedly returned and began asking questions, finally reaching a Kingman Police Department detective as he attempted to glean information about the case for Bowdon's family.

The detective exhibited an "uncaring attitude," he told the paper, adding: "It rubbed me the wrong way as a chief of police, and I would hope he does not treat other victims' family that way."

At another point in the story, Patterson was quoted as saying he was waiting for the facts to be documented and released, but added: "My personal confidence level is low. As for the officers who took the life of my friend and fellow first responder, I am sorry that he put himself in that position. I am also sorry if the officers erred in firing the first shot, all the way to the 10th shot, and putting themselves in that position. I have their names, but I am even more curious why they are

withholding their names."

Patterson told the NI he used a town vehicle to make the initial drive to Lake Havasu City, and Town Manager David Teel confirmed he gave the marshal permission to use the vehicle, though he said he wasn't sure if Patterson had been on the clock.

As for Patterson's comments to the News-Herald, Teel said, "I think he was speaking strictly on his own behalf," adding: "Let's just say that's not the way that I would have approached the issue."

"I would personally hope they do a good and thorough job and (I) won't have any comments until they're done," Teel said of KPD's investigation.

Patterson told the NI he wasn't acting in his role as marshal or being paid by the Town of Patagonia during his time in Lake Havasu.

"I find it irritating that honestly you would even ask," he said, adding later that he was "highly offended" by the question.

Patterson said he used non-town transportation to return to Lake Havasu, where he visited the home and street where Bowdon was killed.

"While I am not 'investigating' or 'looking into' the incident, I am very curious about many aspects of this officer-involved shooting," he said in the News-Herald story.

According to a news release issued July 26 by the KPD, officers from the Lake Havasu City Police Department were dispatched to a home around 2:51 a.m. on July 25 in response to an open 911 call in which a man and woman could be heard screaming at each other.

Three police officers made contact with Bowdon and "discharged their weapons," according to the release. Bowdon was pronounced dead on the scene around 3:19 a.m. His wife, who was also at the scene, was reportedly unharmed.

As of Monday afternoon, the KPD has yet to publish an update on the investigation to its website.

"It's an open, ongoing criminal investigation," Rusty Cooper, KPD spokesman, told the News-Herald. "I can only imagine the emotional impact this has had on the people who knew (Bowdon). People want answers, and we understand that, but there are protocols and procedures we have to follow. We still have people to interview in this case, and we don't want to compromise those interviews by releasing information prematurely."