

# Independent investigation called for in Glen Rock

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**GLEN ROCK** — In the wake of a highly publicized hearing alleging misconduct of the two borough police officers, two people have independently called for additional investigations into the borough police department. Cecil Artrip, a Glen Rock businessman, said he has sent a letter to state police seeking further investigation into the conduct of Chief James W. Herman.

Bryan Sellers, who ran an unsuccessful last-minute campaign as a write-in candidate against the mayor, announced plans to request an investigation by the district attorney into the conduct of both Chief Herman and the borough's only other officer, John Fry.

Mr. Artrip said he is requesting an investigation into the way the case of a man charged with burglary and arson was handled, as well as a further probe of allegations of misconduct by the chief.

Chief Herman was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer and violation of official duties by Mayor Don Swartz last month. Six hours of hearings, which concluded Nov. 1, resulted in a letter of reprimand that was added to the chief's permanent record.

Among numerous allegations, the chief was accused of letting his children ride unrestrained in a police cruiser and leaving the borough on personal business while on duty.

Other allegations against Glen Rock's other police officer were also made at the hearing, which should also be investigated, said Mr. Sellers.

Mr. Sellers said that at least 56 people are behind him, which he believes was reflected in election results Tuesday.

"I knew from the onset that my try for the office of mayor would be an uphill battle, because it was all done at the last minute."

The fact that as a write-in candidate Mr. Sellers received one third of the votes cast for mayor, gives him a stronger voice, he said.

Mr. Sellers said he plans to send the borough council a letter explaining his position and appear at the next council meeting to persuade them to name a neutral panel to investigate the matter or take the investigation to the district attorney.

"If council members decide to ignore my request, I will take up a grass-roots-type movement to persuade them, because the citizens of Glen Rock are fed up. We will start a petition to urge action," he said.

Deborah Dominick, council president, could not be reached for comment Thursday, nor could Officer Fry, Chief Herman or Mr. Robert. The chief's attorney, Patrick Lauer, refused to comment on the matter. However, Mayor Swartz said that while further investigation is unnecessary on the grounds cited by Mr. Sellers, he would like to know more about Mr. Artrip's allegations.

"My position is simple. We just went through a probe of the police department, and it seems to be the height of redundancy," he said.

This weekend the mayor plans to meet with Mr. Sellers to explain the details of the last several months and to explain why the hearing was held, he said.

"I am curious about Mr. Artrip's charges against the chief. It appears that the charges are new, so that investigation is not redundant," Mr. Swartz said.

Meanwhile, posters proclaiming Chief Herman for mayor, were found plastered throughout the borough on Thursday morning, two days following the election. The chief was not a candidate in the election.