

# Chief's wife confronts candidate

## Says Carlson unfair in criticizing Brown

By Scott Williams  
Of The Examiner

**BLUE SPRINGS** — The wife of Police Chief Howard Brown on Tuesday confronted aldermanic candidate Bill Carlson, an outspoken critic of the chief and the Police Department, and accused Carlson of "attacking my husband unjustly."

During a lengthy and sometimes tense exchange following a candidate forum at the Vesper Campus of Blue Springs High School, Jolene Brown also asked Carlson whether he would seek to oust her husband if elected next week to the Board Aldermen.

"You're trying to control his destiny," she said. "What would be your intentions if you were on the board?"

The Ward 3 candidate replied that he would not maliciously set out to remove the police chief of 20 years but asked, "How long until he retires?"

Although the chief and his wife do not live in Ward 3, Brown said she attended the forum specifically to hear Carlson speak and to question him face-to-face during a reception afterward.

Others gathered around as Carlson and Brown continued their exchange for 30 minutes, their voices occasionally becoming loud and drawing attention.

"I have taken your comments very personally," Brown said. "You've attacked my husband unjustly several times."

The chief's wife also grilled Carlson on his own years as a police officer and the circumstances surrounding his medical retirement — prompting him to accuse her of "making fun" of his physical problems.

Carlson says ulcers caused by job stress forced him to leave the police department in Colton, Calif., in the mid-1970s after 10 years as a

patrolman and drug agent.

"I have sat in the gutter holding kids in my lap, trying to keep them alive after drug overdoses," he said. "I did that kind of work day after day after day."

Officials in the suburban Los Angeles community of Colton have confirmed Carlson's credentials as a former police officer.

At one point, Brown suggested that Carlson and her husband meet in person before an impartial third party to discuss some of their disagreements.

Carlson replied that he would welcome such a meeting but did not think the chief would.

"I'd rather the chief do this," he added, referring to Brown's confrontation.

Brown said her husband could not attend Tuesday's event and was unaware that she intended to confront Carlson about his repeated criticism.

"My husband would not tell me to come up here and fight his battles," she said. "But he would be

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