

WARD 3

From page 1

willing to sit down and try to resolve some of the differences."

Carlson has criticized Brown's handling of the police force during the current aldermanic campaign and during last year's election bid, which he lost to Alderman Emil Spears.

The candidate turned on the Police Department during Tuesday's forum, when he and his five opponents in Ward 3 were asked about the Blue Springs crime rate.

Carlson said the city should set higher standards for police administrators, make better use of patrolmen and focus more resources on combatting illicit drug trafficking.

"There's nothing wrong with saying we've got a narcotics problem," he said at the forum. "What's wrong is not doing anything about it."

Most of the other Ward 3 candidates said residents should take it upon themselves to combat crime in the neighborhoods. But some also said the city needs additional patrol officers on the streets.

Incumbent Bob Daffer suggested a police budget increase is needed to beef up patrols and protect residential areas during the workday. "Let the criminals know that Blue Springs will not be easy pickings," Daffer said.

Former Alderman David Lee, who is seeking to make a comeback, called for more neighborhood crime watch programs. He also raised questions about Carlson's criticism of the Police Department. "The Police Department has received a lot of abuse here tonight," Lee said, "and I don't think you've been presented with all the facts."

Also calling for greater neighborhood involvement in crime prevention were Leon Hubbard, another former alderman, and political newcomers Sherroll Wilson and Stephen Zink.

"The Police Department cannot sit on your doorstep waiting to prevent crime," Wilson said.

"We must be our brother's keeper," Zink added. "You're responsible for your own safety — no one else is."