

## **Tammy Bennett**

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**From:** "A. W. Anderson"  
**To:** "Tammy Bennett"  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 04, 2008 2:00 PM  
**Subject:** Roger Purcell

Ms. Bennett:

Instead of mailing the information to you I will attempt to outline what I uncovered in my investigation of Roger Purcell.

The following persons contacted me with information on Roger Purcell when I was doing some background work on him. They may not be in the same areas now but I'll give you what I've got. Hopefully you will be able to contact most of them as they could certainly help your cause. Following their names I will give a synopsis of what they conveyed to me regarding Roger Purcell.

### **Nita Mills - Hoonah**

Nita Mills was a Council member in Hoonah. Purcell constantly vindictive and battering of Mills - He wanted 5 vehicles for the PD and stated to Mills they could only get fleet rate by purchasing 5 vehicles. Mills found that to be untrue and this caused conflict between her and Purcell. Purcell flagged her vehicle and directed his subordinates to stop and cite her when observed. Purcell threatened lawsuit if the City of Hoonah did not have his file purged and back wages paid.

### **Liv Gray - Hoonah**

When Purcell left he demanded file purged and back wages or threatened to sue the City. City took easy way out and complied. Purcell was employed less than 1 year. Hoonah Chief of Police inexperienced and Purcell took over. He flagged Council Members and ordered harassment by Officers. Purcell had problems relating to the public. He harassed instead of protected and served. He threatened fellow employees. Month prior to Purcell leaving very stressful. 30+ complaints from citizens for harassment resulted in Purcell being suspended for 2 weeks. Purcell was treasurer for the ambulance committee but no reports were ever given. He did purchase two plaques for himself, one from Hoonah PD and one from Hoonah EMS.

### **Kevin Clayton - Cordova PD (Chief over Purcell in Bethel)**

Purcell worked under Kevin Clayton in Bethel. Purcell put on 3 month extended probation following a 6 month probationary period. Changes required did not occur and Purcell given opportunity to resign to avoid being terminated. Numerous citizen complaints while employed in Bethel. Very abrasive personality and came on too strong. He had a bad attitude and refused to change. Purcell never completed his probationary period.

### **Pete Davis - Anchorage AST (Chief over Purcell in Unalaska)**

Purcell was a patrolman under Pete Davis in Unalaska. He applied as a Dog Handler but he was not good at handling the animal and the dog was not a good Police dog. Purcell has a Napoleon complex and is very strong willed and forceful. He bullied older people in local bars. He caused a lot of problems when doing bar checks. He is not diplomatic with a very abusive personality. His dog bit a person and this caused a lot of problems. He came to Unalaska from Fort Yukon. He was with Unalaska for 18 months to 2 years. He was given the opportunity to resign or be terminated. He chose to resign. He had a very bad approach to the public and was too aggressive.

### **Jerry Gentile - Skagway - Fire Marshal 1 - Fire Dept.**

Purcell worked with the Fire Dept. in Skagway. He had his own mind and he talked too much. He had problems with a Physician Assistant and the Captain of the EMS squad. He has a very dominant personality and he created problems between the Clinic and the EMS squad. He attempted to change the policy of the Department. He has a need to change everything. Instead of waiting for the groups sponsoring physician he got his own physician to sign off on his EMT II status. He was very upset when he returned and was not allowed to practice under his EMT II status. He was not satisfied with anything and attempted to change things to what he felt would be better. Purcell threatened lawsuit when he left and the people were convinced he would sue. He was not missed when he left Skagway.

3/8/2008

**Carl Muhvihill - Skagway - Fire Chief -**

Purcell under Carl Muhvihill in the EMS division as an EMT. He came on too strong and had personality clashes with other EMT's. He would not take direction in the 1 and 1/2 years he was with the squad. He took it on himself to go to EMT II training on his own and this created a problem with other EMT personnel in that they were a unit and planned to progress together. Purcell is insecure and covers it with aggressive behavior and by attempting to dominate others. He makes bad decisions and is not a team player. He modified his behavior somewhat after being warned. He left the squad to go to Seldovia as a Patrol Officer.

**Joe Masters - AST Academy Sitka - Unalaska PD, Worked with Purcell)**

Joe Masters and Purcell hired at the same time in Unalaska PD. Purcell patrolled with his dog in the vehicle and was overly aggressive and had a very abrasive personality. He didn't get along well with community members and they came to hate Purcell. He made a lot of bar checks and created a lot of problems. He used his nightstick on 2 people, which was ruled as justified, but he hit one person in the mouth, which was not justified. He wore skin tight black leather gloves knowing it angered people. He was called "Little Napoleon" by community members. Purcell very much the braggart and Joe did not remember if he was fired or resigned when he left the PD.

**Linda Hersy - Hoonah Dispatcher -**

September 1987 Purcell was Lt. in Hoonah PD. Linda Hersy replaced Kathy Bolton as a dispatcher. Mary Katof was and Administrative Assistant and Purcell tried to use one against the other. Purcell caused Hersy trouble from her very first day. He started trouble with Trooper Luse of the Alaska State Troopers and bragged he would get Tpr. Luse through his Lt. position. He accused the Tpr. of making a pass at Purcell's wife. Tpr. Luse reassigned to Ketchikan. Purcell had plotted to get rid of Kathy Bolton and he was successful. He then bragged he would get rid of her husband, who was a Police Officer under him. Purcell denied leave for Grand Jury service to Bolton and when this occurred Bolton became angry and slammed the door on his way out. Purcell yelled insubordination and this resulted in Bolton leaving the Department. Purcell would backstab those he worked with and was continually causing problems. In January Purcell told Hersy that Mary, the other dispatcher, was a problem and he was going to get rid of her. Purcell then told Mary that Hersy was out to get her job. Hersy applied for the City Clerk's position hoping to get out of the turmoil. The Sgt. of the Police Department told Hersy to talk to the other dispatchers, since she had a good report with them, and compile a list of complaints regarding Purcell. After the list was compiled Hersy left it for the other dispatchers to read prior to turning it in and Purcell got hold of it. He said by doing this Hersy jumped the Chain of Command, was a troublemaker and said her performance was bad. Due to this harassment by Purcell, Hersy quit that day. On one occasion Purcell ordered a background check done on Hersy and told the dispatcher doing the check not to write it down in the log but the dispatcher did log it in. Purcell violated State Laws by doing this and was tape recorded lying about other items. Hersy took the complaints to the City Council as a citizen. As a result of this Purcell and his Chief of Police took sick leave and both traveled to Juneau where they contacted lawyers. The investigation by the Council resulted in the City Manager being terminated, the Chief of Police placed on 6 months probation and Purcell being busted back to Patrolman and he was banned from making any administrative decisions. Purcell then quit the Police Department and took a position at the Harbor. Purcell was known as a "Mr. Know it All", a "Little Napoleon" and he was very aggressive and, due to this, the Chief of Police feared him. Everyone was angry with and disliked Purcell and when he was the subject matter at the Council Meeting there was standing room only. Purcell used undue force, was dishonest and would lord it over on people. He was always pumping for information about what other employees were saying or doing. He ordered 2 plaques for himself, one from Hoonah Police and one from the Hoonah Fire/EMS Department to boost his insatiable ego. He was unprofessional in his dealings, both with his co-workers and the public. He misused his authority and was very power hungry. He should never be given any authority and should never be allowed to wear a gun. Hersy feels Purcell has to be stopped from going to smaller Departments where he continues to intimidate and harass people. Hersy stated the Officer could feel free to use her name regarding any statements she has made regarding Purcell.

**Don & Kathy Bolton - Juneau (Lost jobs due to Purcell)**

D.W Bolton sent me a lengthy packet outlining what occurred between himself and Roger Purcell when he was working under Purcell. I'm sure he will share it with you. If need be I can fax the packet to you. If this is necessary please send me a good fax number.

**Moses Smith - Juneau (Phone # not known)(Lost job due to Purcell)**

Never directly talked with Mr. Smith but told he was a good source of information regarding Purcell. Purcell is alleged to have cost him his job.

3/8/2008

**Arnold Stuart** - Fort Yukon

Never talked directly with Mr. Stuart but was told he had information regarding Purcell

**Adali Alexander** - Fort Yukon

Adali Alexander told me Purcell was always harassing citizens in Fort Yukon and the power of the badge had gone to his head. It is believed he was fired from Fort Yukon but Alexander was not 100% sure.

**Alex Clark** - Seward (Numbers Given -

No personal contact but told Alex Clark had information regarding Roger Purcell.

This concludes information gained through my background investigation on Roger Purcell. Everything aforementioned was told to me by the persons listed. While Purcell was employed with the Seldovia Police Department he caused a lot of animosity between the Fire/EMS Department and the Police Department. He was very aggressive in his enforcement of the laws and was found to be dishonest. He was known as a braggart, aggressive, forceful man with an insatiable ego. He seemed to enjoy turmoil and would pit one person against another. When you first make his acquaintance he is likeable and seems very knowledgeable. He soon becomes overbearing and hard to work with. Many citizen complaints were lodged against him during his tenure in Seldovia but upon his departure he threatened a lawsuit and an agreement was made with the City that his file be purged and he get wages for standby time, which the City had never paid prior to his arrival or since his departure. I was personally not in agreement with the decision but was on vacation when the agreement was made.

I cannot be much more specific but am hopeful this will assist you in some way. Roger Purcell should not be in any office that even comes close to giving him any administrative or decision making power. He abuses any authority given him and when it catches up with him he moves on to another location where, it seems, he continues his abuse. A good place to look deeper into his background would be in Skagway as he has spent a lot of time in that location. Tpr. Luse would also be a good person to talk to but I do not know how to contact him at this point. If you do need to contact him and cannot locate him, let me know and I'll see what I can do to find a contact number.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out. Hopefully your recall attempt will be successful.

Respectfully,  
A.W. (Andy) Anderson  
Chief of Police  
Seldovia Police Department

During Rodger Purcell's employment with a contract security company located at the Anchorage Federal Courthouse, Rodger was able to establish himself into the title of union president. What the employees did not know is that Rodger Purcell was also working for a company called Primerica. This company specializes in helping families get out of dept and become financially dependent. While Rodger Purcell was president of the union he allocated \$5000.00 from the workers union funds into a company called Citicorp, which is a subsidiary of Primerica. Rodger Purcell did this with out a vote or even bringing it to the attention of the co-workers. The coworkers found out there was missing funds and confronted Rodger Purcell about this. They confronted Rodger Purcell about violations to their collective bargaining agreement and by laws. Rodger Purcell immediately resigned from this job in October 2003 and his chair seat of union president.

I am sure a trip to the Anchorage Federal Courthouse would be well knowledgeable. The workers that work there today still absolutely despise Rodger Purcell.

Chief of Police Andy Anderson Seldovia PD is on a gag order and can not talk about why Rodger Purcell resigned from Seldovia Police Department. All City employees are on this order and can not speak of the activities. However there is nothing in the gag order that states that former City employees who were employed at the same time Rodger Purcell was, but no longer work for the City aren't allowed to talk. While working for Seldovia Police Department confidential city information was continuously being leaked to the public. The city had it narrowed down to two individuals that it may have been. While the other individual was away on vacation the City held a private meeting and salted the files with false information. This false information got leaked out to the public several days later. Investigation revealed only one person had the ability and access to these city documents. Because the other person was out on vacation they confronted Rodger Purcell about burglarizing city files. Rodger Purcell immediately resigned his position as Police Officer for the City of Seldovia.

John Mickelson,  
Ivan Widom, City Manager

John has since moved to the lower 48"