

Lahners unsure about releasing files

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"The gun had apparently been cleaned recently, and it was too oily to take any prints from," Lahners said. "Rallis is the only one who reportedly saw Stewart handle the gun in question."

He said he has not yet decided if he will release his file on the Lewis case, regardless of whether Boosalis releases police files.

Boosalis said certain information in the LPD report will be withheld to protect the informant who assisted police in the original drug case against Lewis.

Hansen said the police files on the Lewis case "couldn't be released before now because it would have infringed on the rights of the officer in question (Loos)."

Lahners took extensive statements from all the officers and deputy sheriffs in regard to the Lewis case, he added.

"Now there is no reason for the files not to be public information," he said.

Hansen said the file, released by Mayor Boosalis, will be available for public inspection in the city clerk's office.

Police Review Board

Boosalis said she immediately will start screening people to serve on the recently approved Police Review Board that will examine citizen's complaints about LPD misconduct.

Although approval of the board came five days after the Lewis shooting, according to City Councilman John Robinson, the board will not hear grievances regarding that incident. Seven citizens selected by the mayor and approved by the City Council will compose the board.

Boosalis said her office has not received a significant number of complaints about

the Lewis incident. She said marchers demonstrating at the County-City Building did not go to her office.

Hansen said Tuesday that the Lewis case offered an opportunity for corrective action to be taken as soon as possible.

"Rather than treat everything like a problem, I like to treat it as an opportunity," Hansen said.

Nothing would be done by Lincoln police to incite any further problems, he added.

"It is the main duty of the police to protect the citizens and their property," he said. "The main question is, are we doing justice to the people we are dealing with?"

The police files on the Lewis case were kept secret pending possible charges against Loos for Lewis's death.

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