

Why I am Running for Sheriff?

Running for Sheriff has been my goal since I started at the Sheriff's Office since my hire date March 21, 1988. I want to restore Integrity and Honor to the Sheriff's Office. I feel a change is needed.

I prepared myself for this goal by obtaining my Bachelors Degree from the Ohio State University, majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice. To meet this goal, I pursued the best basic police training, from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. Though out my career I have prepared myself with thousands of hours of police training and education. This was the 1st phase in preparation of my goal.

I placed a lot of dedication, time and energy into the roles and position I was responsible for in law enforcement. I built positive relationships with the law enforcement community and the public. I took on numerous tasks during my entire career which would prepare me for the office of Sheriff.

I worked tirelessly on huge cases involving numerous law enforcements officers, and agencies to pursue criminals and hold them accountable for their crimes. I was a leader in covert and overt operations in the Sheriff's office. I gained a lot of experience working with criminal and civil courts, federal, state, and local.

I followed the policies and procedures, the law, and union contracts to be an example of equality fairness and professionalism. Now after 36 years, it is time to be the Richland County Sheriff. I am ready to share my past, dedicated service, leadership, education, training and expertise as your Richland County Sheriff's.

Top 3 issues I will address:

Increase focus on our community's drug problem. I will assign more detectives to the METRICH drug task force. We need to address our drug problems, and try harder to combat the life altering effects of the drugs crimes. This is especially important these days when so many illegal aliens are coming into our country who are not vetted.

I want to increase the covert and overt operations of the major crimes and patrol bureaus. This will help engage and organize efforts to fight violent crimes, drug crimes, human trafficking, school crimes, child and elderly abuse, sex crimes, cybercrimes and many more types of crimes.

I will address the lack of Correction Officers in the Jail, and its unacceptable turnover rate for new and experienced Officers. I will research are current administrators' practices, and review former grievances, and arbitrations. I will follow up with dozens of former correctional officers to determine why they left, having so much time and experience invested in their career. Our Correction Officers are making higher wages now than they ever had before and they left for lower paying jobs elsewhere. Why? Its because of the Administrators' management practices. I will set out to recruit and hire new and former Correction Officers, with due diligence, ensuring these prospective Correction Officers have the proper temperament, knowledge, and attitude to handle this very difficult job. This should decrease the chances of injuries, deaths and civil action in the Jail.

How I plan on improving the safety of the jail inmates:

I plan on recalling and staffing the jail with knowledgeable, experienced Correction Officers. I plan on researching and interviewing current and past Correction Officers on why they left their employment from the jail or why current Correction Officers are frustrated with their current job at the jail.

I have spoken to some Correction Officers and they claimed they quit because they were fed up with a vindictive and harassing jail administration and were always under staffed. I will investigate past civil lawsuits, arbitrations and documentations to better understand the nature of why so many quit. The high turnover of seasoned Correction Officers and being short staffed directly has an influence on the jail injuries and deaths.

I will continue to investigate the past inmate deaths, all of which were preventable including Alexander Rios, Maggie Copeland, and Zachery Marshall.

In the matter of Rios, better training or more consistent training along with physical fitness and routine practice of perishable skills would have been beneficial, and also better training of the supervisor's commands.

No one should die of sepsis in a way Zachory Marshall did at the Richland Country Jail. The Administration and Advance Correctional Healthcare (ACH) should answer to this horrible slow death of Zachory Marshall

Maggie Copeland died of dehydration; the civil complaints summed it up. How long can a sick drug addict vomit, have diarrhea and not take in liquids and lie on a cold floor, naked and dehydrated and not die? How many overlooked her predicament? They should have known she was in need of serious medical attention.

I will train the staff and administration to look for these dangerous conditions and report them to medical staff. If the Correction Officer thinks it's necessary, call an emergency squad. He or she shall report the matter to a supervisor. If the Correction Officer notices and believes that the contracted medical provider is not available and/or is rendering substandard care, he or she shall call a squad.

It is my understanding that the jail administrator completed an investigation on one or more of the above deaths. The administrator's investigation blamed the death on Advance Correctional Healthcare's staff. If this is the case, why did they agree to Pay them 110% percent more to ACH, when they provided this substandard care.

I received information that a doctor in one of above law suits, stated he did not have a contract with the Richland County Jail or with Advance Correctional Healthcare, if he does not, why not?

I have a spreadsheet that shows 32 complaints from inmates or their family of wrongful injuries or death claims against Advance Correctional Health. I hope the jail administration took this in account before continuing their service. I would have definitely question whether they should contract with them, (not with this track record).

As Sheriff, I will investigate the above lawsuits, read their complaints, Coroner reports, affidavits, Interrogatories, depositions, and statements. Then I will review for new policies, procedures, and standards and train and educate the jail staff to stop these tragic and costly deaths. I would also consider other correctional healthcare providers or see what accountability the present company has in the wrongful death lawsuits. One settled for 4 million. If the other two are equivalent settlements, it may be in the neighborhood of 12 million dollars.

I will employ a drug/alcohol and mental health counselor in the jail, to assess on inmate intake, counsel while the inmates are a captive audience and to provide guidance upon leaving the jail to outpatient treatment.

This is how I will improve the safety of our jail inmates.

Here is my background:

As a lifelong resident of Richland County, and a lifelong member of St. Mary of the Snows Parish, I am deeply connected to this community. Growing up in Mifflin Township in a family of 12, who were all public servants; Judges, Magistrate, Prosecutor, Lawyers, Probation Officer, Police Officer, U.S. Marshal, Professor, teachers, and nurses. I been married for 39 years to my high school sweetheart Beverly, and together we have three children and four grandchildren. Now, I am ready to dedicate my experience, education, and expertise to serving our community as the Sheriff of Richland County.

I have always been a conservative person; in my choices, thinking, values and morals. My voting history of republican candidates such as Presidents, State Officials, local officials, and conservative issues will demonstrate my allegiance to the Republican Party. In 2018, I walked away from the Democratic party. I did not agree with their issues, candidates' ideology, norms, and values. In 2020, I officially registered as a Republican to keep myself aligned with my God-given values and my Christian beliefs.

My education includes graduating from The Ohio State University and the Ohio State Patrol Basic Police Academy, plus thousands of hours of law enforcement training. I have 36 years in law enforcement, 18 years as a supervisor, with 28 ½ at the Richland County Sheriff's Office. Over two decades as a Major Crimes Investigator. I have experience as a Dispatcher, Correction Officer, Major Crimes Supervisor, Patrol Supervisor, and Crime Scene processing. My experience extends to a wide range of cases, including murder, violent crimes, drug crimes, burglaries, thefts, frauds, crimes against the elderly and child abuse, burglaries, theft, and fraud.

I have been involved in hundreds of search warrants, formed numerous task forces to pursue organized and habitual criminals, and have recovered and returned thousands of stolen items to their rightful owners.

I am an advocate of the Special Units and will develop and maintain the following; METRICH Drug Task Force, U.S. Marshals Violent Fugitive Task Force, SWAT, Community Policing/Neighborhood Watch, School Resource Officers, Search and Rescue/Drones, K9 Units, and Dive Team, Major Crimes and Criminal Patrol.

During my time at the Richland County Sheriff's Office, I received numerous commendations, but I am most proud of the one I received in 2020 from the Ohio Attorney General, Dave Yost, The Ohio

Distinguished Law Enforcement Lifetime Achievement Award for years of dedicated service, outstanding leadership, and significant performance in the pursuit of justice during my law enforcement career.

For the past 9 years I have worked for the Richland County Common Pleas Court, and for the last 7 years, I have been a MWCD Police Officer and currently serving as the Northern Ohio Regional Supervisor directly under the Chief of Police. My impressive educational background, extensive experience and vast knowledge in law enforcement makes me the wise choice for Sheriff.

I would like to share the following:

I enjoy spending time with my wife, children, grandchildren, family, friends, dogs, and cats, creating memories. I enjoy going to Mass together, socializing and helping others. Also enjoy the following; wood working, designing, and creating, auto mechanics. Fishing, Hunting, shooting guns, archery, hiking, camping, boating, four wheeling, arts and craft, wine making, travel and teaching. We enjoy building and remodeling and landscaping and gardening. I am very creative and crafty and I apply many of these attributes in my vocation in law enforcement.

I am a firm believer in the Ten Commandments, love God and want to treat others in a way you would like to be treated. I am an advocate of our Constitutional Rights. especially the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th Amendments.

I have served on the St. Mary of the Snows School Advisory Council, member of the NRA, Fraternal Order of Police, Knights of Columbus, Richland County Fish and Game Club, ODNR Hunter's Safety Instructor, St. Mary of the Snows Parish. I am a proud Republican Candidate for Richland County Sheriff and I am asking for your vote on March 19th, 2024.

Matthew James Mayer