

Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff's Association

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February 10, 2020

Dear Candidate:

My name is Steven Holz and I've been a member of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department for over 15 years. Additionally, I have been elected President of the Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff's Association. Our membership has expressed an interest in learning more about candidates that are running for local offices and we are requesting that you answer the questions below to give our membership an idea of your views and beliefs.

If you would like to answer the questions, you can simply email answers to JeffersonCountyWVDSA@gmail.com.

We are hopeful to have your answers by March 1, 2020 in order to have them available during our quarterly business meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 304-886-7348.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Holz, President
Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff's Association

1. What do you believe is the biggest need for improvement within the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department?
Restoring the moral within the JCSO and restoring the communities respect and trust in the JCSO
2. What are your top three goals for your first year in office?
1; Increase Manpower to the DOJ Minimums, 2; Restore and Boost Moral, 3; Modernize the JCSO
3. Do you intend on appointing a Chief Deputy? If so, what criteria are you seeking to fill this role? 1: Yes I do
Criteria for Chief Deputy: 1; A Law Enforcement Background with the ability to be sworn and have full Police Powers per Chapter 7 of the WV State Code and attend the WVSP Academy for however long if required, 2; Background in Administration and Leadership, 3; A Background in Leadership and Administration in other facets of Public Safety.
4. What do you believe are the highest threats to public safety in Jefferson County, West Virginia?
If this question is referring to Public Safety Personnel of the JCSO then my answer is 2fold:
1; Mental Wellness, for the first time in the history of our profession LEO Suicides have outweighed Line-of-Duty Deaths, so establishing a network of counseling services to help members in unknown crisis is paramount. 2; The Anti-Police sentiment that is running rampant in our Country
If this question is referring to the Public Safety of the Citizens of Jefferson County
The rampant and unrelenting Drug Problem and the other crimes resulting in the Opioid Addiction.
5. Do you believe that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is adequately staffed? If not, what are your plans to increase staffing and to what level?
1; NO, DEFINITELY NOT. 2; To build a rapport with the County Commission to get further funding by emphasizing the JCSO's needs and point out the continued staffing shortfalls, 3; To obtain other funding from State and Federal grants and such that will allow movement of funds from other line items to increase the manpower or payroll line item. ***Per the DOJ minimal staffing of a police agency is 1 man for every 1500 residents, I believe that according to the last census Jefferson County has approximately 54K residents and approximately 6k in transient residents equaling 60k residents, so the JCSO should be sitting at 45 sworn personnel right now!
6. Do you believe that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is adequately funded? If not, what are your plans to increase funding?
My answer to this question will be almost identical to Question # 5
1; NO, DEFINITELY NOT. 2; To build a rapport with the County Commission to get further funding by emphasizing the JCSO's needs and point out the continued funding shortfalls, 3; To obtain other funding from State and Federal grants.
7. Will you require deputies to enforce any laws that are passed that infringe on the rights of Jefferson County citizens? NO, DEFINITELY NOT