

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Steve Spodyak as he runs for the office of sheriff of Park County. I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Colorado native, and I've been a Park County resident since 2000. I was a deputy sheriff with the PCSO for nine years and had the pleasure of working with Steve when he was a deputy. I know that when Sheriff McGraw took the reins of the PCSO in 2019, he faced several challenges. I believe Sheriff McGraw made a wise choice in selecting Steve as his undersheriff. As a citizen living in Park County, I am proud of the work and running of the sheriff's office under Sheriff McGraw and Undersheriff Spodyak's leadership.

As a former deputy, I know how very difficult it is to conduct law enforcement operations and services in rural Colorado. I know first-hand that poorly paid deputies have over 2200 square miles to patrol, and limited manpower and resources greatly challenged quality of service, response times, and created extremely dangerous environments for deputies, who often responded to very dangerous calls with little to no cover. Hard decisions had to be made regarding these issues, and I believe Sheriff McGraw and Undersheriff Spodyak fought hard for their deputies, and in-turn, the citizens of Park County, as they worked to increase pay for deputies, which in-turn generated more manpower. I have full trust in Steve that he will continue the hard work he began with Sheriff McGraw, to ensure the efficient running of the PCSO, and the difficult task of serving and protecting the citizens in this vast, rural county.

From working with Steve, I know he is a man of strong character, who takes his oath as a peace officer very seriously. I know he will hold his employees to this same standard. I know Steve is honest to a fault. I know Steve is committed to his family and to family values. I know Steve loves his community, and I have no doubt Steve would lay down his life in service to this community. I know that Steve will work hard to protect the citizens of Park County from crime and he will advocate for pro-active enforcement of the law in this endeavor, and I also know that Steve values protecting the constitutional rights of the citizens he serves. Steve's heart is to serve, and as a peace officer, he takes pride and honor in his service to the citizens of Park County. I believe Steve's character and ability to lead were challenged during his time as undersheriff, and I believe that Steve faced these challenges head on and came out the other side as a proven courageous, servant-leader.

When we vote for the new Park County Sheriff this year, my family and I will be proud to vote for Steve Spodyak.

Very Sincerely,

Dean Morgan,

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