

Letter from Retired LEO (1988-2015) - Patrick Smith

March 17, 2026

I believe Undersheriff Steve Spodyak to be an excellent candidate for Sheriff.

I retired after 27 years of law enforcement in one of the largest cities in the Denver metro area, I have a wealth of experience with good leaders, bad managers, figureheads who do not participate, and those who lead through example.

I met Steve shortly after he was appointed Undersheriff of Park County. Upon taking over the Sheriff's Office both he and Sheriff McGraw discovered that the Property and Evidence building needed an overhaul. They took immediate action and brought me, as well as a few others, into the project. I worked part time with the Sheriff's Office for a little over a year, organizing and updating the Property and Evidence area. I left the Sheriff's office after the project was completed. They offered me to keep the position, but I declined as I was supposed to be retired. The following year they reached out again needing help with a Records Retention and Purging project. I didn't have to even think about it, as my first time working with everyone in the organization was a true pleasure.

During my time at the Sheriff's Office, I observed Undersheriff Steve Spodyak to be forward thinking, a problem solver, a resource manager, and a very personable leader who cares about his people. All the while, focusing on organizational success and community commitment.

Steve Spodyak has vast knowledge of the Sheriff's Office and Park County government. He knows the stakeholders and geography of the county. He knows the makeup of each neighborhood he serves. This is his home. He is well known and well liked throughout the county. Steve has successfully completed a vast amount of training in operations, and leadership all the way to what many would argue is the pinnacle of law enforcement executive training, the FBI National Law Enforcement Academy.

Steve serves with honor and dedication. He takes his oath to uphold the constitution with utmost seriousness. There is no doubt in my mind that Steve would continue to improve the Sheriff's Office and work hard for all the people in Park County, regardless of political affiliation.

I encourage Park County to elect Steve Spodyak for Sheriff.

Patrick Smith - Retired LEO (1988-2015)