**504. Sheriff's Salary Limitation.**

The Sheriff's Salary initiative, commonly known as Measure A, and passed by a majority of the voters at a general election on November 7, 1972, is hereby repealed.

The Board of Supervisors shall, at least annually determine the existing average salaries for the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol for each class of position employed by said agencies. Effective on the first day of January of each year after this charter provision first becomes effective, the Board of Supervisors shall adjust and determine that the average salary for each class of position as set forth herein be at least equal to the average of the salaries for the comparable positions in the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol.

As used herein, the term "comparable class of position" shall mean a group of positions substantially similar with respect to qualifications or duties or responsibilities using the following positions as guidelines:

Undersheriff  
Captain  
Lieutenant  
Sergeant  
Deputy Sheriff  
Clerk

The provisions of this section shall prevail over any otherwise conflicting provisions of this charter or general law which may relate to salaries of County officers or employees who are not elected by popular vote.  
[Amended by Charter Amendment ratified November 7, 1995, effective January 26, 1996; Stats. 1996, ch. 2]

You will hear a lot about Section 504 of the El Dorado County Charter. We, as taxpayers of this county, have been taken advantage of for many years because of this section. You may ask yourself how and why? Here are some key words in this Section. There are words that are stated that are cleverly worded, in my opinion. Words like “Sheriff’s Salary Limitation” and average salary for each class of position computed from taking the average of comparable positions and salaries in other police agencies using the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff’s Department and drum roll please, the California Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol is the spoiler that pushes the average into the stratosphere. It is nowhere comparable to the Sheriff’s Office of El Dorado County. It does not fit “comparable class of position” as stated in the charter.

Here is another part of the Section 504 that has been added to allow OTHER county employees to be added to the salary average “general law which relates to salaries of County Officers or employees who are NOT elected by popular vote.” The District Attorney, County Counsel, Public Defender, and County Administrative Officer are all included in this section for salaries. They have no connection with the Sheriff’s Office. Rumor has it code enforcement officers may be linked in as well. The past County Administrative Officer worked long enough at his new salary for three months and retired with a nice “Golden Handshake” to maybe parts unknown.

Now, ask yourself where was the “Gang of Five”? Sitting on their hands as usual. (REALLY???) END OF PART ONE.