



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY STEED
Sheriff

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27th, 2006

AGENCY

SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LOCATION:

WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

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CONTACT:

SHERIFF GARY STEED

SHERIFF GARY STEED ANNOUNCES REORGANIZATION OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE ALONG WITH PROMOTIONS. "WITH THE RETIREMENTS OF FORMER UNDERSHERIFF JOHN GREEN AND MAJOR DANNY BARDEZBAIN, THIS GAVE US A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK CLOSELY AT HOW WE WERE DOING BUSINESS AND SEE IF THERE WAS A MORE EFFICIENT WAY OF PROVIDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY" SAYS SHERIFF STEED. THIS WAS SOMETHING SHERIFF STEED HAD THOUGHT ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME. "THE LAST MAJOR REORGANIZATION TOOK PLACE IN APPROXIMATELY 1996. AT THAT TIME, A THIRD BUREAU WAS CREATED DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE PROJECTED GROWTH OF THE AGENCY."

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ALTHOUGH THE WORKLOAD HAS INCREASED OVER THE INTERVENING YEARS, THE ECONOMICS OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PREVENTED THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FROM KEEPING PACE. "WE FOUND OURSELVES HAVING TO DO MORE WITH LESS – THE SAME AS MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT." SAID SHERIFF STEED.

MANY FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASED WORKLOAD – AN EXAMPLE INCLUDES THE INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN REGARDS TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION LAWS. AT THE SAME TIME AS THESE CHANGES IN STATE LAW OCCURRED, THE NEED TO HIRE QUALITY PEOPLE TO WEAR THE BADGE OF DEPUTY DID NOT DIMINISH. SAID SHERIFF STEED: "IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THE PEOPLE I HIRE TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY BE OF THE HIGHEST ETHICAL CHARACTER. THIS REQUIRES CONDUCTING THOROUGH BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS – WHICH PULLS PERSONNEL AWAY FROM THEIR PRIMARY DUTIES AS A DEPUTY.

ORIGINALLY THE THREE BUREAUS WERE: OPERATIONS (CONSISTING OF PATROL AND INVESTIGATIONS), SUPPORT SERVICES (CONSISTING OF COURT SECURITY, WARRANTS,

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TRAINING, CIVIL PROCESS, RECORDS, PROPERTY & EVIDENCE) AND DETENTION (CONSISTING OF OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT); EACH LED BY A DEPUTY WITH THE RANK OF MAJOR. UNDER THE NEW STRUCTURE, TWO BUREAUS HAVE BEEN MERGED INTO ONE, THEREBY ELIMINATING ONE POSITION OF MAJOR.

ANOTHER ELIMINATED POSITION IS THAT OF LIEUTENANT AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S POSITION HAS BEEN REDEFINED. THIS POSITION IS NOW "CHIEF DEPUTY." "THIS NAME CHANGE BETTER REFLECTS THE NEW DUTIES OF THE POSITION" SAID SHERIFF STEED. BECAUSE OF THE GROWTH THAT HAS OCCURRED WITHIN THE AGENCY, THIS "CHIEF DEPUTY" WILL FUNCTION AS A SECOND UNDERSHERIFF. WHILE THEY BOTH HOLD THE RANK OF COLONEL, THE DISTINCTION ALLOWS THE SHERIFF TO APPOINT SOMEONE WHO IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE A CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. "THIS ALLOWS ME GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN SELECTING A PERSON WITH THE REQUISITE SKILLS TO OVERSEE BUDGET, SPECIAL PROJECTS, PLANNING AND RESEARCH" SAYS SHERIFF STEED.

SHERIFF STEED RETAINED THE SERVICES OF DR. BRIAN WITHROW OF WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY TO FACILITATE THE REORGANIZATION. THE CURRENT EVOLUTION OF THE AGENCY IS THE RESULT OF THIS PROCESS:

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NOW THERE WILL BE TWO BUREAUS: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DETENTION. IN ADDITION TO THE MERGING OF TWO BUREAUS, TWO CIVILIAN PROPERTY POSITIONS HAVE BEEN CREATED. THESE CIVILIAN POSITIONS WILL BE PERFORMING DUTIES PREVIOUSLY DONE BY A DEPUTY. A NEW CAPTAIN'S POSITION HAS BEEN CREATED TO OVERSEE A NEW DIVISION WITHIN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU – ADDRESSING MANY OF THE FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY HANDLED BY THE SUPPORT BUREAU. THE REORGANIZATION WILL ALSO RESULT IN THE REASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL AND SOME DUTIES REDEFINED.

ALL OF THESE CHANGES DID NOT INCREASE THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. IT IS IN FACT PROJECTED TO RESULT IN A SAVINGS OF JUST OVER SEVEN-THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED (\$7,600.00) DOLLARS. "THE GOAL WAS TO MAKE THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE MORE EFFICIENT IN DELIVERING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC – REORGANIZING AND CREATING A SAVINGS IN THE BUDGET AT THE SAME TIME MAKES ME CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS A GOOD CHANGE" SAID SHERIFF STEED.

AS PART OF THE REORGANIZATION, THE FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS WERE ANNOUNCED BY SHERIFF STEED:

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E.O. DAVID L. THOMPSON D0046 Appointed to the position of Chief Deputy with rank of Colonel.

CAPT. JAMES R. WOODS D0120 Appointed to the rank of Major, assigned to Detention Bureau.

LT. MICHAEL K. OLIVER D0487 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Captain assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division.

LT. MICHAEL L. STOVER D0611 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Captain, assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division.

SGT. GREGORY J. POLLOCK D0779 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Lieutenant, assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division.

DETECTIVE AMY R. TRACY D0782 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Sergeant, assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division.

DEPUTY TIMOTHY J. FORSHEE D0938 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Detective, assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division.

DEPUTY KARI M. GOURLEY D0935 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Detective, assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division.

DEPUTY SHAUNA Q. SHERWOOD D1381 Promoted to the rank of Sheriff Detective, assigned to Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division.

DET. CPL. STACEY J. BURKE D0835 Promoted to the rank of Detention Sergeant, assigned to Detention Bureau, Operations Division.

DET. DEPUTY DWIGHT L. HEDRICK D1422 Promoted to the rank of Detention Corporal, assigned to Detention Bureau, Operations Division.

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CAPTAIN SAMUEL R. HOUSTON D0235 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division.

CAPTAIN GREG D. SCHAUNER D0083 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Support Division.

LIEUTENANT BRUCE H. MORTON D0538 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Support Division, Training Section.

LIEUTENANT JAY R. MCLAURIAN D0667 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division.

LIEUTENANT TERRY L. PARHAM D0191 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Special Projects Unit, Sheriff Administration.

SERGEANT DANIEL E. HERSHBERGER D0717 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Investigations Division,

SERGEANT OSCAR R. THOMASSON D0262 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Special Projects Unit, Sheriff Administration.

SERGEANT CLIFFORD L. MILLER D0058 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Patrol Division.

SERGEANT JEFFREY J. HOLTZ D0445 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Professional Standards Unit, Sheriff Administration.

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SERGEANT LIN G. DEHNING D0653 Transferring from Professional Standards Unit, Sheriff Administration, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division.

OFFICE SPECIALIST GINGER SIMON D0663 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Special Projects Unit, Sheriff Administration.

DEPUTY KEVIN J. BERRYD1090 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Support Division, Training Section.

DEPUTY TIFFANY C. MORLAND D0785 Transferring from Law Enforcement Bureau, Judicial Division, to Law Enforcement Bureau, Support Division, Training Section.

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