



MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
501 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD., SUITE 350 • PORTLAND, OR 97214

Bob Skipper
SHERIFF

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503 988-4400 PHONE
503 988-4500 TTY
www.mcso.us

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: BOB SKIPPER, Sheriff

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETIREMENT AS MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF

Today I am announcing my retirement as the Multnomah County Sheriff effective November 5, 2009. I am taking this action because I failed to obtain the necessary certification from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) within the prescribed period to allow me to remain in office. I have made this decision after careful consideration and I have left no stone unturned in seeking a solution that would honor the requirements of DPSST and allow me to fulfill the obligation that the voters of Multnomah County have elected me to do.

I had many goals when I returned to the Sheriff Office. There were many things on the internal agenda that needed tending. The men and women of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office were critical pieces of the puzzle in accomplishing many of these goals. I have attached a list of many of the accomplishments we have achieved together over the past 18 months. Their dedication to service and willingness to be a part of the solution to the variety of challenges we had to face is the way I remembered this agency when I left in 1996 and is the way I will remember it when I leave in November. During my time here we have accomplished a great deal.

As I transition from office it is important that I leave behind someone who I believe shares the devotion I have for the Sheriff's Office and has the vision and drive to continue moving the agency forward. Therefore, I have decided to designate Lt. Dan Staton as my replacement upon leaving office. I have worked intensely with the staff at the Sheriff's Office and feel I can fully support Lieutenant Staton as a person well-equipped to lead the organization and inspire the trust of the public.

Lieutenant Dan Staton is a career public servant. He has broad and even experience in both operations and administrative work and is well prepared to meet the challenge of running a public agency. I think you will find him a thoughtful and thorough leader who will keep the interests of the public first in his mind as he leads the men and women of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

As I reflect on what is yet to be done I cannot help but think of the Wapato Jail, still sitting empty after all these years. A solution to this jail as well as the opening of a Work Release Center are two very big priorities in developing an overall solution to good public safety in Multnomah County. I am confident that Lieutenant Staton will be able to assume the Office of Sheriff and open dialogues on both of these important matters.

I want to thank the citizen's of Multnomah County for their confidence in electing me as Sheriff. I hope I fulfilled your trust in me and that you will be pleased with the direction of the Sheriff's Office. I

also want to thank our agency members and my Command Team as well as Chair Wheeler and the Board of County Commissioners who gave me their unqualified support and effort to turn around the agency following some very dark times. It has been my privilege, for one final time, to be of service to you.

Significant Accomplishments of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

July 17, 2008 to the Present

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is a public service organization that provides civil, corrections, and law enforcement services to Multnomah County. Our Commitment is to provide quality, cost-effective prevention, intervention and detention services to the communities of Multnomah County. We will improve the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime through innovation, partnerships and teamwork.

What follows is a partial list of significant accomplishments made while providing public safety services during the current term of Bob Skipper as Sheriff. The intent is to show policy level achievements, rather than the day to day operational accomplishments of an 800 person agency which would be too numerous to list in a summary document. This list is organized by three initiative areas – Corrections, Law Enforcement and Agency wide.

CORRECTIONS INITIATIVES:

Open Booking Policy

Until July 1, 2009 people accused of certain crimes -- such as drug possession, prostitution and auto theft -- were frequently cited and released. Instead of getting booked into Multnomah County jails, they were simply given court dates. While the Sheriff's new policy expands the spectrum of bookable charges, law enforcement officers retain discretion over which suspects are booked and spend the night in jail before facing arraignment. The sheriff's office hopes that the ability to book people for any type of crime will disrupt unlawful activity and reduce the number of offenders failing to appear for their court dates.

Single Bunking Returned to Direct Supervision

Several Corrections Grand Jury reports have been critical about the deterioration of the direct supervision model for the county jails due to sustained year after year budget reductions. The impact to the jail system was to increase the risk of injury to the staff and offenders lodged in the Multnomah County Detention Center (MCDC). This all changed in July, 2009 with the return to single bunking at MCDC, greatly reducing Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) concerns and expanding inmate time out of their cells up to 16 hours per day. This return to the design capacity of the building also reduces costs for maintaining building systems.

Close Street Supervision

In October of 2008 the Sheriff's Close Street Supervision Program was restored back into operation after budget actions eliminated the successful 30 year program over three years ago. Close Street is a minimum security custody program which provides services to eligible offenders supporting accountability while transitioning offenders out of medium and maximum security jail beds. Close Street Supervision provides intensive, individualized supervision and management of multiple need pretrial offenders at the direction of the court; these offenders are considered otherwise ineligible for release. This program supports both offender accountability and reintegration of the offender into the community.

Redesign of the Classification System

The National Institute of Corrections conducted a study in March of 2008 making several recommendations for improving the Counties objective based classification system. MCSO was a groundbreaking national leader in objective inmate classification 20 years ago, only to have the system deteriorate as the county sustained budget reductions. Through a thorough redesign of the classification process and tools as well as housing area designations enabled by the return to single bunking a more efficient process has been established as of July 1, 2009.

A component of this redesign is the creation of Assessment Modules, whereby inmates moved to these modules after booking will be assessed for risk and needs and housing designation decisions will be based in part on moving the inmate to areas in MCSO facilities where programming occurs. The importance of these Assessment Modules cannot be overstated. Such modules will allow for a centralization of assessment services, thereby delivering them to a broader target population and at an earlier point in their incarceration period than present, and a staging point for internal movement to programming areas.

Redesign of Detention Electronics at MCDC

A memorandum of understanding was reached with Multnomah County Corrections Deputy Association (MCCDA) in order to establish remote control staffing for two control centers at MCDC as part of the single bunking implementation. The electronics were revised and cameras were added to accommodate this change which freed up staffing resources to open two closed floors of MCDC.

Court Services and TSI Program Restorations

The Sheriff received Board support to restore the Turn-Self-In program as a sentencing option for the courts. The Sheriff has also redeployed corrections deputies to bring inmates to courtrooms in response to Presiding Judge Jean Maurer's request for relief from the up-to-two-hour waits that judges, attorneys, victims, witnesses jurors have had to endure waiting for hearings to begin.

Re-Entry Project

The lives of those who cycle in and out of Multnomah County's jails are unstable at best. We know that linking supportive services such as housing, jobs, addiction treatment, health and mental health programs go a long way in preventing recidivism. With these kinds of supports, people are far less likely to end up in our County jail again. The passage of the Federal Second Chance Act and the commitment to provide comprehensive assistance to county governments in addressing offender recidivism issues heralds an opportunity for Multnomah County to step up its efforts to help persons leaving jail successfully reenter their communities. An informal work group was formed by Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito with the leadership of Sheriff Bob Skipper and department of Justice Director Scott Taylor in order to tackle the issue of reentry and to examine "best practices" in other communities. As ongoing efforts to improve reentry outcomes MCSO has added counseling resources for the jail to the community reentry program along with changes in our classification system (mentioned above).

Negotiated new agreement with MCCDA

This agreement addressed wages and issues associated with sick leave use, incentives for accruing sick leave hours, limits on compensatory time off which reduce the need for backfill overtime, and provisions for uncontrolled environment pay.

Renegotiated the USM Contract

The Sheriff's Office successfully re-negotiated the fixed price United States Marshal agreement to include a cost of living adjustment clause, with provisions to freeze the current per diem bed day rate if the COLA is negative as a result of a declining economy. As a result of our partnership with the USM, Multnomah County benefited by an additional \$1.9 million dollars in FY09 for use of jail beds for USM inmates above the budgeted projections. (The budgeted daily average number of USM beds was 125 but the actual beds used per day averaged 159 for the year.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES:

Cold Case Unit

On October 24th, 2008 Sheriff Bob Skipper swore in the new MCSO Cold Case Homicide Squad, a group of retired enforcement deputies volunteering to work on a number of unsolved homicide cases in the Sheriff's Office files. This project is a win-win partnership with the Sheriff's Office, the retirees and especially for the victims and family members of victims who have endured not knowing the truth of what happened and who was responsible for the loss of their loved one and to bring justice and closure to these cases. This effort is directly in alignment with the county's goals of having volunteers assist in county programs.

Improved Patrol Deployment Shifts

The role of the Law Enforcement Division focuses primarily on services to citizens residing or recreating in unincorporated Multnomah County. Priority is given to increasing patrol efforts in east Multnomah County and on the navigable waterways. In January, 2009 Sheriff Skipper implemented changes in patrol shifts resulting in both a financial savings from the reduced need for overtime use, and additional community coverage hours from less overlap of shifts.

Negotiated Restoration of SIU and Warrants Service Unit

The Sheriff worked with Commissioner McKeel and the rest of the Board to restore funding for the Special Investigation Unit for FY10. This approach utilized innovative funding from several sources: County general fund; funds from forfeitures and seizures; a Justice Assistance Grant; and applied savings from the Deputy Sheriff's wage freeze agreement to forgo COLA's for FY10.

Added the ROCN Captain

After a period with no MCSO resource assigned to the team, the Regional Organized Crime Narcotics Task Force (ROCN) now has a Captain position in the Sheriff's Office who manages the team. ROCN includes the following agencies: Portland Police Bureau; Gresham Police Department; Tigard Police Department; Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington and Columbia County Sheriff's Offices; Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County District Attorney's Offices; Oregon State Police, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FBI, and the United States Attorney's Office.

Increased Support for Keeping the Transit System Safe

As ongoing effort to improve the safety of the transit system the Sheriff has operationally added a Sergeant along with the four deputies already assigned to the program supporting Tri-Met. This enhances our efforts to utilize information and intelligence in the scheduling of our deputies.

Received Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Funding

The Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) is a nationally acclaimed best practice model with a successful record of improving investigations and prosecution rates for financial abuse and exploitation of seniors. This program involves MCSO detectives assigned to investigate instances of exploitation and fraud, and be responsible for providing forensic evidence to substantiate or prosecute abuse. MCSO has designated an Elder Abuse Detective Coordinator who will work closely with Adult Protective Services, the District Attorney's Office, and other community partners listed below to gather evidence about crimes and also educate the public about financial abuse.

Received Byrne Grant Funding for Child Abuse Prevention and Gang Enforcement

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant is a non-competitive federal formula stimulus grant from the United States Department of Justice (US DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP). This grant restores one full-time Child-Abuse Team (CAT) Detective cut in the budget process who works as part of a team, investigating child abuse allegation cases assigned by the CAT sergeant. The grant also adds one full-time Corrections Deputy who is assigned to the Metro Gang Enforcement Program to organize intelligence and investigative information regarding known and suspected gang members and associates in custody and acts as a liaison for distribution of new and updated information.

AGENCY WIDE INITIATIVES:

Improved Web Site

This website is a useful resource guide to Sheriff's services and also is a public service tool providing up to date online information regarding inmate bookings and civil process documents. The web address is www.mcso.us

Green Hornet Webletter

The purpose of our webletter is to provide a connection between the Sheriff's Office employees and the communities we serve. It is a voice from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to highlight our work, provide public service announcements, events, news items, statistics and even humorous stories. This webletter is most importantly an ear to listen, and respond to the needs of the County community.

Returned \$4.8 million to general fund in FY 2009

In December of 2008 at the halfway point of FY09 Chair Wheeler asked that the Sheriff's Office under spend our budget appropriation by \$3.4 million to help the County cope with the economic downturn. At year's end, the Sheriff's Office returned \$4.8 million to the general fund, exceeding the Chairs request by over \$1.4 million dollars.

Reduced sick leave usage by 31%

Significant progress has been made by the Sheriff's Office toward managing the agency's sick leave. This conclusion has been validated by a recent Multnomah County Audit which was released in December 2008 and estimated that the Sheriff's Office has reduced their sick leave use by as much as \$1.4 million.

Implementing performance reviews

MCSO is committed to supporting excellent performance by putting the needed processes and tools in place for all employees. A team of MCSO managers has been selected to develop the Performance Planning & Review (PPR) process for the agency. PPR includes a tool for conducting yearly performance appraisals and more importantly it outlines an approach for managers and employees to set goals and expectations, as well as having productive ongoing communication about performance throughout the year. Training for all agency managers with these new tools has been scheduled to occur later this month.

Established management expectations with all managers

The Sheriff in a series of management meetings developed manager expectations for each division culminating in all managers agreeing and signing statements in October 2008. The Sheriff also established both a mission statement and a criminal justice code of ethics for the agency. He then attended meetings and roll calls throughout the agency to communicate expectations and answer questions. These statements are available to the public and can be viewed at: http://www.mcso.us/public/stats/mission_statement.pdf

TeleStaff

The TeleStaff electronic scheduling and notification system has been improved to provide operational reporting regarding leave and overtime use in the agency. The Sheriff continues to review overtime usage as a weekly topic at Executive team meetings.

Reduced dependence upon OIC's

After Sheriff Skipper took office specialty assignments were reduced for exempt staff to allow them to return to direct assignments in the facilities. This improved the command structure and communication in the agency.

Implemented a LOA, Military Leave, and Retiree Buyout Program Saving \$300,000

When the County budget cuts required reductions in staffing levels the Sheriff's Office investigated leave and incentive options as an alternative to the layoff of newly hired and trained staff due to contract requirements based on seniority. As a result new deputies were retained in the workforce and the County realized over \$300,000 in savings.

Improved relationships with Board

In the May 15th letter written to the State Department Of Public Safety Standards County Chair Ted Wheeler summarized the Sheriff's accomplishments since his return to the County "Under the Sheriff's strong and capable management, the Agency has experienced a marked improvement in morale, a return to the high level of professionalism expected in both the law enforcement division and the corrections division, and has regained the respect and confidence of the public in the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)." Similar support has been demonstrated by the County Board in their restorations of Sheriff's programs in the budget process mentioned elsewhere in this document. The Citizens Budget Advisory Group also has been actively involved in supporting MCSO programs and advocating public safety needs to the Board.

Improved relationships with East County Jurisdictions

The recent 10th annual National Night Out held at Wood Village along with demonstrations by Sheriff's Units and the citizen's academy was an overwhelming success amongst both citizens and participating agencies. The Sheriff has received special acknowledgements from east county law enforcement jurisdictions for the temporary staffing of the Gresham Temporary Hold facility at this month's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting. The Sheriff's Office is actively participating in the regional sheriffs meeting to address DPSST training cuts and other common public safety issues. Additionally, a number of public service projects have been completed by MCSO work crews that benefit East County community needs, including the mitigation of inclement weather incidents.

Preparing for H1N1 impact

The Sheriff's Office has developed and put in place Continuity of Operations Plans for each division to address all incident types including a potential community pandemic event. Additional detailed planning is nearing completion for the specific response to the H1N1 potential, with communication to staff currently underway.

From Drugs to Mugs

The latest drug education effort from MCSO made its official debut at Gresham's Sam Barlow High School on June 4th. From Drugs to Mugs© is similar in many ways to Faces of Meth©, but directs it's attention away from one specific drug and addresses a wide range of substances prone to abuse by young people. The 48 minute long documentary includes interviews from incarcerated substance abusers and the professionals who have frequent contact with them.