

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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Tom,

In response to your question, after all of the media attention and judicial scrutiny of the Sheriff's Office, I was hired by our citizens to do a job for which I have trained my entire career and I am grateful for their confidence. I went into the campaign knowing all too well from my own law enforcement experience that each day in neighborhoods all over Okaloosa County our deputies see heartache, abuse, loss, addiction, mental health issues, and poverty. These are the problems that are at the root of what law enforcement has to deal with to keep our community protected. Keeping politics in perspective was not difficult because what matters is our job – a job that is not always truly seen by the overall public – but it's *felt* by the individual being arrested, or being protected, or being helped by a deputy on the street and that interaction is critical.

I believe any new Sheriff elected following our community's betrayal, would not only expect, but welcome scrutiny. Although the campaign trail was challenging, I knew our deputies and residents appreciated that I worked to focus not on the past, but on doing all I could to forge a positive future for this agency and our community. As far as the challenges of the election go, it was vitally important to me that our campaign maintain the high road and that it focus on the needs of the agency and the public, not mudslinging. My campaign mindset was that we have too much important work to do to continue treading water by concentrating on the past. Accreditation for example, was a great step forward in spite of many obstacles and now we have to keep that positive momentum going. That's what I continue to hear from the vast majority of residents who want and deserve integrity and efficiency in their law enforcement professionals and I think the election results show that.

I am honored to be the first Sheriff in Okaloosa County to have worked my way up the ranks to become Sheriff. I am more honored to serve beside the men and women of this agency who work every day, without fanfare, to ensure that the citizens of this county are safe and protected from those who would do us harm. I am proud to have stayed the course to focus on positive progress. I am also proud my entire command staff began their careers driving green and white OCSO patrol cars. All three newcomers to the administration are former OCSO members who are well known and respected by the rank and file.

Sincerely,

Larry Ashley



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"