



# City of Maywood Park

10100 NE Prescott St., Suite 147, Maywood Park, OR 97220

April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016

Multnomah County Review Committee  
c/o Kristen Leonard

Dear Ms. Leonard,

Thank you for allowing us to comment on the issue before you;

“To Elect or Appoint a Sheriff in Multnomah County”.

Apparently, Multnomah County is no stranger to this question and it has been posed to The City of Maywood Park before. As **the elected** Mayor in a community whose citizenry is very protective of their right to vote on issues important to them, I will answer on behalf of the city and their elected staff.

We have all been taught that in America our government is set up using a system of checks and balances. A system that involve the branches of government being separated into three distinct areas. Judicial, Legislative and Executive; Thereby assuring that no one group controls or influences the system as a whole.

The Sheriff as a member of the Executive branch provides one of these checks and balances as an elected official directly accountable to the citizens. He/she is not effected by the undue influence of Board Members or the County Chair or a budget committee (Specifically the Legislative Branch). The Sheriff acts upon the responsibilities of the job and the number one priority for a Sheriff is to maintain Public Safety.

An elected Sheriff serves a predetermined term in which they develop priorities to establish policy, develop personnel, and budgets that will have consistency to the benefit of the people. An appointed Sheriffs priority defaults to satisfying the board that appointed him. As demonstrated by Multnomah County's failed attempt to appoint a Sheriff in 1967 -1978. In a matter of just 10 years there were 6 Sheriffs who all failed to satisfy the whims of the Legislative Branch who had appointed them.

An elected Sheriff extends the right to the Citizens to choose who they want to hold the office. An Appointed Sheriff defers the power to choose, to a conflicting branch of government. Negating the check and balance system, which we feel is definitely contrary to the American Way.

The American people throughout the Country have almost universally settled on an Election process for the office of Sheriff. We the people of The City of Maywood Park agree with and vigorously oppose the idea of an appointed Sheriff. The people want and deserve the right to vote for their Sheriff.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Mark Hardie

**MAYOR MARK HARDIE**  
**COUNCIL PRESIDENT DAVE SNODGRASS**

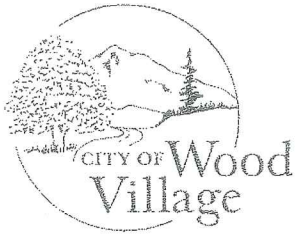
Councilman Jim Akers, Councilman Matthew Castor, and Councilwoman Marci Marshall  
503-255-9805 Fax 503-251-0366

**CITY OF MAYWOOD PARK**

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*Mayor*  
Patricia Smith

*Council President*  
Timothy Clark

*Councilors*  
Scott Harden

Bruce Nissen

Jimmy Frank

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Multnomah County Charter Review Committee  
c/o Chair Kirsten Leonard

This letter is to address the issue of changing the sheriff's office from elected to appointed. Historically Oregon Sheriffs have been elected in all but 3 counties. In 1967 it was decided to appoint the Sheriff and between 1967 and 1978, there were 6 appointed sheriffs in Multnomah County. Finally voters tired of this lack of continuity and returned to electing the sheriff.

All but 5 states in the United States have elected sheriffs. Only in cases of death or resignation, are sheriffs appointed, and only then to serve out the remaining term of office.

The Sheriff provides a check and balance directly responsible to the citizens and protected from undue influence by members of the county board or other county officials even though the county board controls the budget and salary of the Sheriff.

We live in a democracy and should have the right to choose who is to be Sheriff. Voters have decided almost universally that the office should remain elective, even though there have been many efforts to make it appointed. Direct election is a protection of our individual freedom to choose our sheriff.

Election is consistent with national practices throughout the United States. In those jurisdictions where the sheriff is appointed, there is a decrease in quality and continuity of law enforcement services. When the sheriff is subject to the wishes of the board of commissioners, the office becomes more politicized.

There is stability and continuity with an elected sheriff. Comparisons of city police responsiveness and continuity with the office of sheriff show the detriments of appointment. There is no evidence to show that police departments headed by an appointed law enforcement officer are any more creative, stable, or cost effective than the office of elected sheriff.

I sincerely hope that your decision will not be to appoint the sheriff. However, I firmly believe that, should it be put on the ballot, the people will choose to elect their sheriff, as they have in the past.

Mayor Patricia Smith  
Wood Village

April 17, 2016

John Wilson  
Troutdale City Council  
1306 SW 24<sup>th</sup> St  
Troutdale, Or 97060

To: Multnomah County Charter Review Committee,

I strongly believe that the office of the County Sheriff should be an elected position. In many states and in Oregon there has been a long-standing practice that the sheriff is elected for a four year term. Some jurisdictions have switched to a system of appointed sheriff only to return to an election system.

Even in Multnomah County the sheriff became an appointed position. From January 1967, to late 1978 the county board appointed six different sheriffs. The voters became dissatisfied and returned the office of sheriff to being elected. It has already been proven that an appointed position does not work in Multnomah County.

An elected answers only to the voters, and can act as an effective voice of the people in the event of a disagreement with policy or direction of the Board of Commissioners. An appointed sheriff cannot disagree with the board for fear of losing their job.

If an appointed sheriff is asked to investigate a crime by the legislative branch, it takes little thought to see the problems that could arise when that office answers to the same legislative branch, Transparency does not work. The sheriff's office should be to investigate those they believe violated the law. Independence will not exist if this office is an appointee.

Election is the Best Option:

- 1) The sheriff provides a check and balance as an elected county official directly responsible to Multnomah County citizens that protects from undue influence by members of the county board.
- 2) Citizens should have the right and freedom to choose their sheriff and a direct election is the best means to accomplish that.
- 3) The election of the sheriff is consistent with the national traditions and practices. Election of sheriffs is nearly uniform throughout the United States.
- 4) There is stability and continuity of office. Sheriffs at the county and city police departments at the municipal level handle local law enforcement.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of the support of an elected sheriff in Multnomah County. We the citizens of Multnomah County must have a voice in all that serve us.

Respectfully,



John L. Wilson  
Troutdale City Council  
503-705-2858

To: Multnomah County Charter Review Committee,  
c/o [Daniel.staton@comcast.net](mailto:Daniel.staton@comcast.net)

April 18, 2016

Via Email Only

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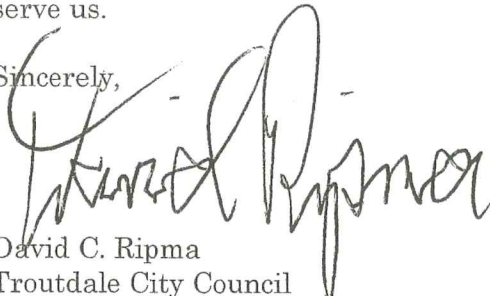
If an appointed sheriff is asked to investigate a crime by the legislative branch, it takes little thought to see the problems that could arise when that office answers to the same legislative branch. Independence will not exist if this office is filled by appointment.

Election is the Best Option:

- 1) The sheriff provides a check and balance as an elected county official directly responsible to Multnomah County citizens that protects from undue influence by members of the county board.
- 2) Citizens should have the right and freedom to choose their sheriff and a direct election is the best means to accomplish that.
- 3) The election of the sheriff is consistent with the national traditions and practices. Election of sheriffs is nearly uniform throughout the United States.
- 4) Sheriffs are elected in every county in Oregon.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of the support of keeping an elected sheriff in Multnomah County. We the citizens of Multnomah County must have a voice in all that serve us.

Sincerely,



David C. Ripma  
Troutdale City Council  
4220 S. Troutdale Road  
Troutdale, OR 97060