

CITIZENS AUXILIARY ADVISORY SHERIFF'S MEETINGS

DATE: January 4, and January 11, 2024

The Sheriff Departments Pastor first led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He then reported on the killing of 123 Law Enforcement Officers in 2023. In 4 days of 2024, there has already been 1 Officer killed. He asked for prayers for the survivors. (Me) what a dreadful way to start a New Year. The Sheriff expressed his appreciation for the feedback from the attendees of the past Advisory Meetings.

He is gearing up now to look at a conservative "Criminal Justice Tax". The intent is to acquire dedicated funds for the hiring of more deputies. He is aware that an election year is not a good time to present to the public. His hopeful target is to acquire one deputy per 1,000 citizens within county. He wants a new "proactive" law enforcement. It is and has been "reactive" for the past 28 plus years. A new contract with Patrol Officers just got a raise that is more in line with other counties. Because of the increased wages, Mason County just received 2 officers from other local counties. The latest new hire won't be ready for the streets until 2025. Need 16 more deputies per capita. Still no permanent Public Defender. Funding is an issue and only "fill-ins" are supporting the court system. 2023 set a record of highest service calls at 25 thousand. There were as many as 1200 service calls for animal patrol like barking dogs etc. Need more help there. It has been mandated that school buses go to "electric". The Sheriff says that is very dangerous. He said, "he would rather go back to horses versus an electric Sheriff Vehicle." "ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!" A new evidence officer has been hired. All evidence regarding a murder must be retained, continuously inventoried {monitored} for 100 years. A bigger/better facility is needed as the inventory is mounting! New purchases-uniforms with bullet proof vests, handguns and rifles with red light, Swat, and a Command Vehicle and an underwater drown (cost \$80,000) it will assist with drownings. An interesting drowning fact, as a rule drowned bodies stay under water for 2 months and then surface. The drone also films underwater. Three canines have been replaced.

February 2, 2024, will be the Grand Opening of the new precinct located on Old Belfair Hwy. \$2,000 a month for rent. The new Chief of Police is a local resident. The previous Chief was from California. A new Major Crime Unit has been formed. In the past, because of Covid, officers were restricted from monitoring speeding offenders. The monitoring has been reestablished and so has ticketing!! All deputies can now pursue violators again. Note: the chasing/stopping of speeders has helped in the finding of illegal drugs. Washington State experienced the highest number of fatal crashes ever in 2023. One case of death from the "Super Fentanyl" has occurred. People die from this drug before it even enters the blood stream.

A representative from PUD 3 stated that their website now has current road conditions for county roads. Keep food, water, and blankets in your vehicle.

Respectfully,

Maureen Allen