



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMPLETE WITH FINDINGS

Cincinnati, Ohio, January 15, 2015 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil provides the attached Performance Audit on the Operations and Administrative Divisions, which concludes the overall audit done by Greenwood & Streicher, LLC. This was an opportunity to have an independent firm with years of experience in law enforcement review our organization from top to bottom. We knew improvements were needed, but it was important to have professionals from the outside give us unbiased recommendations.

“Most of us came up through the ranks in the Sheriff’s Office, including myself, which I’m very proud of,” Sheriff Neil stated, “but it was time to get a fresh perspective and suggestions on how we can improve and move forward.”

Sheriff Neil came in with his own ideas as well. Immediately upon taking office he consolidated divisions making the organization more lean at the top and reallocated those resources to put more frontline deputies and officers patrolling the streets and in the jail. Sheriff Neil created a full time Training Section, which for the first time cross-trains across all divisions. He ordered personnel attend a mandated 40 hour in-service training every year, which limited potential liabilities, and increased training opportunities for supervisors to allow for better advancement opportunities.

There was a glaring need to improve technology and become more efficient. Sheriff Neil assembled a group to analyze and make recommendations on improving technology within the office. It was clear we needed a digital Records Management System (RMS) to coordinate with the Jail Management System (JMS) and communicate with the Court Management System (CMS), making the flow of data seamless and easily accessible. This will cut down on redundancies with data entry and make our staff throughout the organization more effective and efficient. We are working with the Commissioners and County Administration to address these technology deficiencies with a Request for Proposal scheduled to go out in February. The audit points out we are understaffed in several areas as well, which we are also addressing with the Commissioners as everyone deals with tight budgets.

MEDIA CONTACT: MIKE ROBISON

Regular Business Hours: M - F 8 am - 4 pm, mrobison@sheriff.hamilton-co.org Office (513) 946-6428

Evening or Weekend Hours: Mobile (513) 235-9952

Mugshot Requests: Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org or call (513) 946-6230

(Cont. – Independent Audit Complete with Findings)

Sheriff Neil recognized a need for oversight and created an Inspections & Compliance Section and Planning Section. These sections look at and update policies and procedures to ensure employees are following them. This has led to multiple changes across the board with additional checks and balances. We drastically downsized our fleet inventory, getting rid of the Armored Personnel Carrier or “Tank”, the “submarine” and several boats. We are more transparent than ever before and are striving to use best business practices. There are examples of positive change in every division, section and unit in the entire office.

“It’s extremely difficult to change the culture of any organization, especially a paramilitary agency. However we’re taking proactive steps and working tirelessly everyday to transform our Office into an innovative, modern example of excellence,” said Sheriff Neil. “We are hiring well educated, creative, sharp individuals who are the future leaders of this Office, and I’m excited about the direction we’re heading.”

Note: This Performance Audit was ordered by Sheriff Neil at the beginning of his term in 2013 to look at the operations of the agency. While the final parts were not made available to Sheriff Neil until recently, the entire audit is based off research and findings as it pertains to the state of the Sheriff’s Office when he took office. However, Sheriff Neil reiterated that the discipline instilled in him and all employees by former Sheriff Simon Leis built character and laid a positive foundation for where we are today.