

I spent the first 28 years of my law enforcement career as a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. I am proud of the experience, skills and relationships I developed as a member of that fine agency. I learned a lot in those 28 years... but there was one thing I did not fully understand. I believe it is something much of the public does not realize. That's the **extensive list of responsibilities that fall under the office of a county sheriff**. I learned much of this as I investigated a possible bid for the office of Delaware County Sheriff. But, to be honest, it wasn't until I BECAME sheriff... that I learned the full extent of the responsibility. I am proud of my office, of the public servants who work under me and of the ways we touch the lives of our neighbors. I am here today to tell you about the nature and scope of the position that I and the 87 other county sheriffs are elected to fulfill.

The duties of the sheriff have increased as administrative procedures, court decisions and requirements of the law have brought about sophisticated and technical advancements to law enforcement.

Your Ohio Sheriffs' Offices are full service law enforcement agencies.

Our Statutory responsibility is defined under the Ohio Revised Code.

The law says the sheriff "**shall preserve the public peace.**" Primarily the Sheriff has the duty of providing law enforcement for the county... basically being the police force. The Sheriff is the **chief law enforcement officer** of the county.

We conduct criminal investigations- solve major crimes. Murders, robberies and burglaries. .. Property crimes like car break-ins and vandalism... Financial crimes. Sometimes the investigations conclude in a matter of weeks but many take months, even years.

We lend **Mutual Aide**.

We are **Officers of the Court** responsible for Executing Process. Sheriff's deputies serve papers including court-related documents, such as subpoenas, writs, injunctions and other legal papers processed by the clerks. We work them every day... and still in Delaware County have more than 700 active warrants. In 2009, our support division processed 7,167 civil papers. We organize sheriff sales, seize and sell property as ordered by the court.

We also provide **Court Security**. The law says it's our job.

The law says Sheriffs are responsible for the **extradition process**.

the safety of every single person who lives in or passes through the county on that day.

Don't forget about **School Resource Officers and DARE programs**; **Victim Advocate Services** to help domestic violence and sexual assault victims understand the court process. We conduct criminal **background checks** for citizens who need them for a variety of reasons.

Then there's our proactive **crime prevention and community education**. This month, my office is conducting a canine drug sweep at one high school, a gang presentation to teachers and administrators in another district, helping a neighborhood establish its own block watch. We are participating in a community open house and a safety education day.

To put it mildly, it is lots of responsibility for one title. Ohio Sheriffs are accountable not only to ourselves but to the voters who chose us to protect their homes, their schools and their community. We are proud to be the first to serve and the first line of protection for the citizens of Ohio.

I believe each Sheriff would tell you, as I will, money is tight. We are relying on our resourcefulness, creativity and the dedication of our staffs to provide our vast range of services in tough economic conditions. Next, Guernsey County Sheriff Mike McCauley will discuss the financial realities for Ohio Sheriffs.

He began his career in Law Enforcement as a deputy in 1978 for the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office. He is now serving his third term as Sheriff. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, Sheriff McCauley did his undergraduate studies at Muskingum Area Technical College. He currently serves as treasurer for the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association and serves as co-director for the Region 8 Homeland Security Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Plan. Please give your attention to Sheriff Michael R. McCauley.