



Marion County OREGON

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County Conducts Public Interview of Undersheriff Myers for Sheriff Position

To learn more about his goals for the department, his management and policing philosophies, a public interview was conducted this morning of Marion County Undersheriff Jason Myers. The interview was broadcast live on CCTV and open to the public.

In addition to the panel interview questions, Undersheriff Myers also took questions from the audience and responded to a list of questions from county residents that had been submitted to the board of commissioners.

Last week, the Marion County Board of Commissioners expressed their intent to appoint Undersheriff Myers to fill the vacant sheriff's position. This morning's public interview of Myers is in addition to the application process, and includes conducting thorough reference and background checks. Undersheriff Myers, a nineteen-year veteran of the Marion County Sheriff's Office would replace former Sheriff Russ Isham who resigned August 24. Myers will be the appointed sheriff until a new sheriff is elected in the 2010 November general election.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners did not take any action this morning. Deliberations are planned for board session on September 30.

About 25 individuals attended the public interview this morning while many more viewed the streaming live video courtesy of CCTV. The interview panel consisted of the Marion County Board of Commissioners: Chair Patti Milne, Janet Carlson and Sam Brentano. Deputy Wendy Bales of the Marion County Sheriff's Office (employee representative) and Bert Ortiz, a local business owner and member of both the Salem Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Public Safety Coordinating Council, joined them on the panel. Marion County Chief Administrative Officer John Lattimer served as moderator for the audience questions.

"This morning's interview process is an important step in fulfilling our role of due diligence in filling the sheriff vacancy," said board chair Commissioner Patti Milne. "Jason's responses to our questions were thoughtful, articulate, and reflective of his solid leadership skills," she said.

Jason Myers is a native Oregonian who was born in Portland and raised in Salem. He is a graduate of McKay High School and Chemeketa Community College where he earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice in 1989.

His career in law enforcement began at the age of 18 when he became a cadet with the Salem Police Department. Shortly after becoming a Salem Police cadet, he was hired by the Marion County Sheriff's Office as a summer park cadet, which began his career at this office. After serving during the summers as a cadet, he joined the Marion County Reserve Deputy Program. In September of 1990, he was hired as a full time deputy sheriff. During his career with the sheriff's office he served as a patrol deputy, field-training deputy, judicial security deputy, school resource officer, detective, patrol sergeant, narcotics detective sergeant, administrative lieutenant, operations division commander, and undersheriff. Over the years, he has helped to develop policies and procedures, helped craft a strategic plan, negotiated union contracts, prepared the operating budget, and provided leadership to all divisions, including enforcement, institutions, operations and parole & probation.

Undersheriff Myers holds an Executive Police Certificate from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, and has completed the Oregon State Sheriff's Association Command College. He also recently completed the Salem Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development Course.

He has been married to his wife, Larena, for 16 years, and they have two sons. They currently live on a small farm in the Stayton area.

CCTV will replay the public interview this Friday morning, September 25 at 9:00 a.m. and again on Sunday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Timeline for the Appointment Process:

September 23-28

Complete reference and background checks

September 30 Board of Commissioners Meeting

10:00 a.m. Discussion and board appointment

10:30 a.m. Official swearing in ceremony

10:30 -12 Reception and Open House, Senator Hearing Room, 555 Court Street, Salem.

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