

## History of the Sheriff's Office

In England, the Sheriff came into existence in the 9th century; it is the oldest continuing law enforcement entity in history. The King of England would appoint a "reeve" to keep the peace in the "shire" or the county. This resulted in the Sheriff (or shire-reeve) being the chief law enforcement officer in the county and the Sheriff being elected, not appointed by the King anymore. The Sheriff reports directly to the people and is accountable to them. Sheriffs were mentioned numerous times in the Magna Carta, (A.D. 1215) an ancient English "Bill of Rights", and they were present when it was signed. When the first colonies were planted, the Sheriff's Office was brought to North America as early as 1634. Also, only the *Governor and Sheriff* can call out "citizen volunteers" when there is a national, state or local emergency – they are the only state officials who can do this. The Sheriff was vested with "posse-comitatus" (the power of the county) to deputize assistants for emergencies.



### Diversity of the Sheriff's Office – First African-American Sheriff elected in 1869 in Texas

Because you can elect the Sheriff, there was more opportunity for diversity. A case in point is Burton Walter Moses (1829 – 1913), who was the first **African-American Sheriff** elected in 1869 in the State of Texas in Fort Bend County. Also, he was a Texas State Senator and a member of the Republican Party.



### President Thomas Jefferson

(04/13/1743 ~ 07/13/1826) stated in his work entitled "The Values of the Constitution" called the Sheriff's Office, "*the most important of all executive offices of the country. The Sheriff's power and authority are from the people who elect him. The citizens should control the office of Sheriff.*"

It should be noted that President Thomas Jefferson included bold anti-slavery language in the original Declaration of Independence, which was removed. President Jefferson did get passed by Congress in 1807 a bill outlawing the importation of slaves – it took effect in 1808.

The Sheriff's Office can even be traced back to antiquity found in the Book of Daniel: "*Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the satraps, the deputies, and the governors, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*" (Daniel 3:2, American Standard Version)



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The Sheriff's Office is an elected Constitutional Office and the Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) of his/her county.



*The Sheriff's Office can save millions of dollars for taxpayers.*

The Sheriff's Office is a CLEO, or Chief Law Enforcement Officer of his/her county. It is an elected Constitutional Office that is involved in all aspects of law enforcement such as a Traffic Enforcement Unit, Uniform Patrol, Swat Team, Homeland Security Unit, Criminal Investigations Unit, Emergency Services, Tactical Dive Team, Hazardous Devices Team, Hostage Negotiator Team, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Canine Unit, Correction Facilities, Judicial Services, Coroner's Unit, Aviation Unit (including fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters), Motorcycle Unit, Harbor Patrol Unit, Search & Rescue Units, Airport Police Services Bureau, School Resource Officers, Reserve Posse, etc.

For further information, go to [www.njia.com/sportsmen.html](http://www.njia.com/sportsmen.html)

## What are the functions of the Sheriff's Office and examples in NJ, PA & other States?

**Example 1** "Essex County Sheriff's Office" in New Jersey and provides the following services: Homeland Security (the Sheriff appointed in 2003 a former Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the "FBI's New Jersey Divisional Office" in Newark, NJ to be Director of this unit), County Parks and Services, a Bomb Squad unit, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Field Operations (Bureau of Narcotics, K-9/ Bomb Disposal Unit, Patrol Division), Law Enforcement Services (Bureau of Criminal Identification, Civil Process Division, Courts Division, Detective Division), etc. It also has a "Volunteer Deputy Reserve" program where fully-certified deputies donate at least 20 hours each month to perform law enforcement duties (see N.J.S. 40A:9-117.2 (Appointment of unpaid deputy sheriffs) & N.J.S. 40A:9-117.3 (Deputy sheriffs; rights, privileges and immunities)). **Note:** All Sheriff's Officers have to complete and graduate from a PTC certified police academy--it is the same qualifications and academy as any municipal police officer (currently 21 weeks in NJ).

**Example 2** "Passaic County Sheriff's Office" and "Bergen County Sheriff's Office" in New Jersey have similar functions as the "Essex County Sheriff's Office." Passaic County Sheriff's Office even has a Scuba Team, Special Weapons unit and runs the E-911 Call Center and the Public Safety telecommunications.

**Example 3** "Allegheny County Sheriff's Office" (Pittsburgh, PA) has an Investigative

Division (fugitive squad), K-9 Patrol/Narcotics Unit, and a "Sheriff's Reserve" program (100+ hours are donated a year & they are fully trained (a 6 month program). Sheriff Deputies in Allegheny County are duly trained from Act 2 sheriff training and through 120 MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission) training--see PA Sheriffs' Assoc. 3A. Another great example for reserves: Orange County Sheriff's Dept., CA.

**Example 4** "Montgomery County Sheriff's Office" in PA. They have a Bike Patrol Unit, Bomb Squad, County Emergency Response Team, D.U.I. Processing center, etc.

**Example 5** "Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office" in Tampa, Florida. This Sheriff's Office offers extensive services. It has four patrol districts in the county and has over 4,000 law enforcement officers, detention deputies and civilians and a 727 Boeing airplane that is used for realistic anti-terrorism training. It should be noted that the former Assistant-Director in charge of the FBI's New York Division worked for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office as a Sheriff Deputy.

Links to the Sheriffs' Offices mentioned above:

1. Essex County Sheriff's Office, NJ
2. Passaic County Sheriff's Office, NJ & Bergen County Sheriff's Office
3. Allegheny Sheriff's Office, PA
- 3A. Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSD), CA
4. Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, PA
5. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, FL

## What should be done on a State and County Level?

1. All county police departments should be merged into their county "Sheriff's Office" because it is a "duplication of services" and a "Civil Rights" issue. Supplemental coverage

of a local municipal police dept. can be done by the Sheriff's Office to offset costs.

2. All county Sheriffs should have a "Volunteer Deputy Reserve" program like "Essex County Sheriff's Office" that can save thousands of dollars to the taxpayers.
3. Any county that has a "Department of Public Safety (DPS)" should be under the control of the "Sheriff's Office."
4. "Concealed Carry Permits (CCW)" should be processed through the Sheriff's Office, which is already done in most States.

Saving thousands if not millions of dollars.

## County Police Departments Merged into Existing Sheriffs' Offices in NJ

In New Jersey, Essex County transferred their "Essex County Division of Police" to the "Essex County Sheriff's Office" in 1997 and the "Bergen County Police Department" was folded into the "Bergen County Sheriff's Office" in 2015 (saving the county \$100 million over the next 25 years). Why? It was a "duplication of services" and a "Civil Rights" issue (citizens cannot elect a county director/chief, but can elect the Sheriff (a constitutional officer), who is directly accountable to the citizens and the State and Federal Constitution. Since counties already have an existing law enforcement office called the Sheriff's Office, any county police departments in New Jersey, Pennsylvania or any other state should be immediately merged into the Sheriff's Office. Also, all counties that have a "Department of Public Safety (DPS)" should be under the control of the Sheriff's Office; it is a law enforcement function and a "duplication of services" issue.