

## 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)



#### New Jersey Institute for the Advancement of Truth



Follow @NJAT2004



Follow @GAB.COM/NJAT

Website: [www.njiat.com](http://www.njiat.com) or [www.njat.co](http://www.njat.co)

©Copyright NJIAT 2017 / 2021

Permission is granted to copy Tract "as is" without any alterations or editing for free distribution. The PDF file can be downloaded at <https://njiat.com/PDF/SheriffTract.pdf>

The Sheriff is an elected  
"Constitutional Officer" & the  
"Chief Law Enforcement Officer"  
in the county.



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

The Sheriff, as the county's chief law enforcement officer, has jurisdiction anywhere in the county, including municipalities and has many specialized units (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, Motorcycle Unit, Harbor Patrol Unit, Search & Rescue Units [that includes fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters], Airport Police Services Bureau, School Resource Officers, Reserve Posse, etc.).

For further Information, go to  
[www.njiat.com/sportsmen.html](http://www.njiat.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.

### Volunteer Deputy Division

ECSO has a “**Volunteer Deputy Division**” with full police powers (ACSO in PA has the equivalent: “**Uniformed Reserve Division**”). The volunteer deputies provide a minimum of 20 hours per month of law enforcement services. (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 & municipal police have to complete and graduate from a PTC certified police academy.

**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” (ACSO)—Pittsburgh, PA—has an Investigative Division (fugitive squad), K-9 Patrol/Narcotics Unit, etc.

Allegheny County Sheriff's Department has full **Act 120** policing powers. All Sheriff Deputies in PA are law enforcement personnel under Act 120 or Act 2. (See **Deputy Sheriffs' Association of PA & PA Sheriffs' Association.**)

### Uniformed Reserve Division

ACSO has a “**Uniformed Reserve Division**” with full police powers. The volunteer deputies provide 100+ hours a year of law enforcement services and are fully trained. See Reserves Unit.

**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.

**Example 6** “Broward County Sheriff's Office” (BSO) in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The BSO has the following units under its command: 1. Department of Fire Rescue, which also operates countywide Hazardous Materials, Air Rescue, Everglades Rescue, Technical Rescue teams and serves the Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades; 2. Dept. of Law Enforcement (DLE administers the agency's Special Units and Divisions section—specially trained and staffed units that deal with unique law enforcement situations including Mounted Patrol, Marine and Dive Rescue Units, the Motorcycle Unit and the Crime Lab among others); and so on. **Note: 13 cities and towns have contracted with BSO for law enforcement services.**

## 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 or merger of a local municipal police dept. should be done through the Sheriff's Office to offset costs.
2. All county Sheriffs should have a “Volunteer Deputy Division” program like “Essex County Sheriff's Office” that can save thousands of dollars to the taxpayers.
3. County governments that have an Office of Emergency Management (OEM) division, County Parks & Facilities & Communications should be under the control of the Sheriff's Office.
4. “Concealed Carry Permits” (CCP) 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 millions of dollars 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.