

December 10, 2020

City of Stevenson

Mayor: Scott Anderson

City Council members: Robert Muth, Amy Weissfeld, Paul Hendricks, Annie McHale, Mathew Knudsen

Thank you for considering my comments. I also want to thank each of you for your service to the community and the sacrifice you have made to tend to your civic duties in light of the times we are in and for the time you lend to your position which could be spent with your families.

I want to offer my support for Sheriff Brown. I encourage the council to reach out to our Sheriff and become involved in a positive dialog with him. I'm confident the Sheriff is willing to discuss any concerns you have and would be open to your suggestions if you open the door for this opportunity.

Sheriff Brown is a true leader. He is responsible for a highly trained group of men and women who serve and protect our community as well as for the safety of the citizens of our county. He has demonstrated his adherence to the Constitution which is his contract with the people who elected him.

The Sheriff is elected by the citizens. The governor is not his boss, the City Council is not his boss nether are the County Commissioners, the Mayor or the state Attorney General. Local government can not dictate how he enforces the law. The City Council has no authority or aptitude to attempt to do the Sheriff's job or coerce him to perform in any way they feel is necessary IF the Sheriff is doing his job per the Constitution. All citizens have a right to see that the Sheriff is following the Constitution. Any impedance by the City Council of the Sheriffs duties or contract with the people is a conflict of the contract and an egregious error.

The Sheriff is responsible for ensuring no citizen is being denied his or her rights. If a bill is passed and ill informed people vote in a new law, it may be law but if it is in contradiction with the Constitution it is not lawful. The Constitution takes precedence and the Sheriff has a duty not to enforce it. The same goes for any dictates made by the Governor, etc. Unless our Legislature has amended our Constitution or made a constitutionally valid law, the Sheriff is right to not enforce a mandate which deprives a citizen of their rights. It may be prudent to encourage all citizens to read the Bill of Rights which are not rights given to us by government but are inherent rights we're born with which no government or person can take away from us. The government is not responsible for our individual healthcare decisions and they cannot tell us who we can have over to our house and if we must wear a mask or consent to a vaccination.

In closing, I encourage the Council to consider a role in working WITH the Sheriff to help him do the job he was hired to do and if there comes a time where our Sheriff is conducting himself contrary to the Constitution, let him know your concerns.

Sincerely,

Patrick Price