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John J. McNesby, [President](#)

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The Northeast Times
C/O Broad Street Publishing
2512 Metropolitan Drive
Trevose, PA 19053

Dear Editor,

As the elected representative of 14,600 members, some of whom are Philadelphia Deputy Sheriff's, I must take issue with your editorial concerning the dissolution of the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Green and his consistent mismanagement of his office, financial and otherwise, will not be missed by the rank and file of the Sheriff's office. This is especially apparent with the large amount of money being spent on outside law firms by Green to fight the contract proposals made by the FOP on behalf of his hard working uniformed women and men. It is also the hope of the FOP that his appointees leave with him. The contract hearings are open to the public.

For the Northeast Times in an editorial to join in the "chorus" of those who want the office's future terminated is short sighted and ill advised. The rank and file of the Sheriff's Department is uniformed civil service employees whose duties are varied in range and scope. No one in their diatribes against the employees mentions that Sheriff's work the cities courtrooms, not just at the Criminal Justice Center, but at 1801 Vine, Traffic Court; any where court is held. They hold and bring defendants to the bar of the court and remain there as the case unfolds. Enter any courtroom in the city and a Sheriff's Deputy is there maintaining order and providing for the safe administration of justice. The relatively small amount of incidents in the city's courts is a tribute to the demeanor and professionalism of these Deputies, who often must work with the most dangerous defendant's alone.

They are in fact responsible for the transportation of those same prisoners to and from the County holding prisons, but instead of their numbers increasing with their workload Sheriff Green has allowed the uniformed force to dwindle to dangerously low and unsafe numbers. The equipment they are forced to use is outdated and not befitting the modern work unit that they are.

They are simply hard working civil servants who are under equipped, understaffed and over worked. They now are also beleaguered because of the attacks on them; their work ethic and credibility.

The NE Times should look at other ways to advocate saving money by the City, possibly frivolous law suits: the Boy Scouts and Joey Vento to name two. The 13 million in the Sheriff's budget is one tenth of one percent of the entire city budget and when used appropriately by a Sheriff can make the Sheriff's Department a cutting edge force in a city whose civilian court staffs must work overtime to keep up with the ever growing crime problem. One thing is for sure they are secure in the knowledge that law enforcement, the Sheriff's, keep them safe in their courtrooms.

Sincerely,

John J. McNesby, President
Philadelphia, Lodge#5
Fraternal Order of Police

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