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cc

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Subject: THOUGHTS ON SHERIFF NEVES RETIREMENT

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The purpose of this e-mail is to express my distress on learning in the October 28, 2009 issue of The Mountain Democrat of the early retirement of Sheriff Jeff Neves.

The newspaper states that Sheriff Neves is retiring December 26, 2009 and that the election is June, 2010. However, the June, 2009 election is just the Primary Election, and there is no mention of the strong possibility of the need for a General Election runoff in November, 2009. Also, the Sheriff Elect would not be sworn in until January, 2011. This would mean the Sheriff position would be under temporary leadership for over a year if the Board of Supervisors elected to appoint a temporary Sheriff. I have "heard" that the current Undersheriff, Fred Kollar, has planned to retire in January, 2010. And, to appoint Captain Craig Therkildsen, who is endorsed by Sheriff Neves, taints the primary election of June, 2010.

As a retired police chief who has served with three police agencies, please believe me that the prospect of personnel of the El Dorado Sheriff's Department working in limbo and under the lame duck leadership for over a year is very destructive to morale and a disservice to the citizens of El Dorado County. This is especially true in the political and economic environment of today.

I am not familiar with the Charter of El Dorado County which I know is currently under review. However, I would venture to say that there must be an emergency provision for a special election. If Undersheriff Kollar could be convinced to extend his retirement date, maybe this could provide some flexibility for your ultimate decision. Or, there is also the option of selecting an interim sheriff from outside the Department that would not taint the current political environment. There are several interim law enforcement professionals available on the California League of Cities website.

I am not pretending to know all the solutions to this complicated political and leadership issue. However, this issue cannot linger in the void caused by Sheriff Neves. I thank the Board for accepting this e-mail as an individual opinion and suggestion and look forward to your quick decision and strong leadership now needed for the benefit of the staff of the Sheriff's Department and the citizens of El Dorado County.

Respectively Submitted,

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