

Dear Board of Supervisors and El Dorado County citizens:

Did you know that one of our local sheriff's lieutenants has lived in El Dorado County for over 45 years, has been with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office for 27 years, and that he has taught 32 Citizen - Law Enforcement Academy classes? This has made him a known and popular quantity to the hundreds of El Dorado County citizens who have attended these citizen academy classes, your friends and neighbors. Did you know that he has been active in youth sports, community organizations, and school activities? Did you know that although he has proven himself to be a real "community cop," he is very clear about the boundaries of the law? Doesn't it make sense to you that this kind of a law enforcement official be the interim sheriff until a new one is elected by all of us?

Lt. Kevin House has demonstrated over the course of several decades his affinity for solving community problems. As an experienced and knowledgeable contemporary law enforcement manager, he has knowledge of the importance of community policing and of pre-emptive police policy and techniques. He has implemented all of that to good effect. One example is the Camino - Pollock Pines cleanup campaigns. In addition to the cleanup of trash, Lt. House's participation resulted in the removal of some of the classic precursors of criminal activity thereby preventing some crimes from occurring, i.e. are parolees doing what they're supposed to be? His front-loading, proactive involvement does not wait for something to happen; he's involved in its eradication beforehand by ensuring the safety of neighborhoods where known criminal elements exist.

Crimes are situations that cause trauma to the society in which we live, be it a neighborhood, a block in the neighborhood, a house in the neighborhood, or the entire community of many neighborhoods. Lt. House's knowledge of the law, his experience with its implementation, and his ability to work with all sides represented in any such situation are exactly the qualities needed for an interim sheriff who can hit the road running, completely knowledgeable of all three of those critical elements of sheriff-ing. More than just a "place-holder," he would be an effective interim manager who would be able to maintain the momentum needed to keep the county safe.

Please consider Lt. Kevin House as the most qualified individual, one who both lives in and is involved in every community of the county, to take care of this county until the election of the citizen's collective choice on Election Day. And if you agree with us, please let the Board of Supervisors know before this Tuesday, December 8th. In fact, you may want to be present as the supervisors discuss this appointment at Tuesday's regular BOS meeting at 9 AM.

Ken & Jeanne Harper
Private Citizens