

Thomas Ballinger has announced his candidacy for Wayne County Sheriff. Mr. Ballinger is an experienced and knowledgeable law enforcement officer who will professionally serve the Wayne County community.

I have known Thomas Ballinger since December 2008, when he came to the Copley Police Department. Prior to commencing a career in law enforcement, Mr. Ballinger served our country in the United States Army. After his military service Thomas Ballinger served as a Deputy Sheriff with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Ballinger was a highly regarded deputy and assimilated very quickly as a police officer with Copley Township.

During his tenure with the Copley Police Department, Mr. Ballinger has served as a Patrol Officer, Juvenile Officer, School Resource Officer, and Detective. He has held other positions while with the Copley Police Department, including Negotiator with the Metro SWAT Team, Training Officer, and Liaison with the Copley-Fairlawn Schools.

The duties of a law enforcement officer are varied and often complicated. It takes a special person to ethically and effectively serve their community in a law enforcement position. Thomas Ballinger has demonstrated those qualities. He is committed to the community and serves unselfishly.

Officer Ballinger exemplifies the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing. Through his association with the Copley-Fairlawn Schools, he developed relationships with teachers, students, and parents to establish partnerships to more effectively serve the needs of the community at large. He helped develop the emergency response plans in the schools and trained school staff in active shooter response.

The role of a police officer today is multi-faceted. Police Officers must not only enforce the criminal laws but must develop solutions to problems. Very often, police officers must identify the underlying causes of crime problems in the community in order to more effectively prevent crime from taking place. Officer Ballinger has developed those problem solving skills. He is experienced at working with citizens to identify issues and developing solutions to problems to have a positive impact on crime and disorder.

Thomas Ballinger is a true professional. He is honest, hardworking, and ethical. Thomas Ballinger will serve the Wayne County community well as its sheriff. Thomas Ballinger served his country and is extremely qualified to serve the Wayne County community.

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Sincerely,

Michael Mier, Chief of Police