

# Sheriff J. R. "Jack" Parker

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February 22, 2010

Charter Review Commission  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding your discussion on the pros and cons of establishing an elected Charter Office of Comptroller with auditing responsibilities of the other elected Constitutional Officers.

As the elected chief law enforcement officer of the County, I do not believe that it is advisable to vest the authority to perform performance audits with a single individual who most likely lacks the required experience or expertise to evaluate the programmatic or budgetary decisions I make regarding law enforcement and corrections. In responding to comments made at Charter Commission meetings, what qualifies such an auditor to determine if my actions are "correct or incorrect", or "dumb or smart"? Vesting this authority with a single individual also provides that individual the opportunity to abuse that authority for political purposes to discredit other elected officials.

The Sheriff's Office is already currently audited by the external financial auditor of the County, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Attorney General, FBI, U.S. Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Treasury Department, and the Florida Retirement System for a wide range of performance and compliance issues. Which is a higher priority for spending our limited tax dollars, more auditors or more Deputy Sheriffs to patrol neighborhoods and respond to 911 calls?

As an elected official who is elected countywide I am accountable to the voters for my performance and use of public funds every four years. Because internal auditing is widely recognized as a management tool to reduce risk and improve processes, the use of internal auditing should accordingly rest with the chief executive officer of each agency. When deemed to be necessary and beneficial any Constitutional Officer can institute internal auditing within the agency they have been elected by the voters to lead.

Finally, I can say without hesitation the Sheriff's Office routinely examines opportunities for implementing cutting edge technology and best practices. Our agency personnel are also encouraged to think outside the box to find solutions to current and future needs. Our success in these areas is documented by the fact this agency operates with the lowest spending per capita in this region for law enforcement.

I am always interested in ways to make government more accountable. However, now is not the time to expand government, create more bureaucracy and add more high paid government positions on the backs of local taxpayers, even if it is with the intention of providing additional accountability...which it will not.

Again thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for your service on the Charter Review Commission.

Very truly yours,

  
Sheriff Jack Parker



#### Member

Florida Sheriffs Association  
National Sheriffs Association

#### Canaveral Precinct

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#### East Precinct

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#### Jail Complex

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#### North Precinct

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#### Special Operations

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