



January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting

Please Welcome Today's Speaker

**Brian K. Albert**

**Washington County Sheriff**

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The mission of the Washington County Sheriff's Office is to improve the quality of life of citizens and visitors in Washington County, while maintaining individual rights and public order through law enforcement, correction, and judicial services.

**Sheriff Brian K Albert** was elected as Sheriff in 2022 and has over 28 years in law enforcement experience. Brian grew up in Clear Spring, served in the United States Air Force, and retired as a Captain in the Maryland National Resources Police where he managed a budget of over 12 million dollars and was responsible for over 70 sworn officers. He then served as Director of Washington County's 911 system prior to being elected as Sheriff.

Sheriff Albert believes good policing starts with the belief that you should treat everyone the way you want to be treated and recognizes the need for the Sheriff to lead by example.

He supports community-based policing to help build positive relationships within our neighborhoods and wants his deputies and the employees of the Washington County Sheriff's Department to be engaged in the community. Albert, himself is a member of the board of Habitat for Humanity. The Sheriff also recognizes the importance of investing in the best training possible for his deputies. During his career he has always searched for new and innovative training programs happening throughout the country to complement the standards and requirements put in place by our state.

Sheriff Albert sees recruitment and retention of deputies and correctional officers as one of the biggest challenges he'll face as he takes office, as well as the impacts from substance abuse in this community.

Fewer people are interested in becoming a police officer as the profession deals with a national workforce shortage, wage limitations, increased violence against officers, changes in the public's perception of law enforcement, and new state policy and regulations recently enacted. Positive engagement by law enforcement in one's community can help inspire more young people to consider a career in law enforcement and public safety.

The drug epidemic is a national crisis and not something that law enforcement can handle on its own. Instead, we must coordinate Federal, State, and local law enforcement to target the upper-level dealers and traffickers in our area, as well as partner with public and private entities to get help and support to those suffering with addiction. In addition, treatment facilities need to be readily available to anyone that needs help.

*(Note: Developed by GHC staff from several different articles and election questionnaires)*