



HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

I-2

For the meeting of: April 4, 2017

Date: March 13, 2017
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Amy S. Nilsen, County Administrative Officer *AN*
Subject: Interim Appointment to fill Sheriff Vacancy – Michael T. Downey

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors appoint William Honsal as the Interim Sheriff, effective May 6, 2017.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: General Fund

DISCUSSION:

Humboldt County Sheriff Downey was elected to the office of Sheriff in 2010 and subsequently again in 2014. His current term expires on December 31, 2018. Sheriff Downey has since submitted notice of his retirement to the county. His last day of employment with the county is May 5, 2017.

The Sheriff is an elected position. Sheriff Downey's retirement will create a vacant position. Government Code Section 25304 states: "The board of supervisors shall fill by appointment all vacancies that occur in any office filled by the appointment of the board and elective county officers, except judge of the superior court and supervisors. The appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term or until the first Monday after January 1st succeeding the next general election." The next general election is in November of 2018.

Prepared by Amy S. Nilsen CAO Approval *[Signature]*
REVIEW: Auditor *BA* County Counsel *BA* Human Resources *BA* Other *BA*

TYPE OF ITEM:

☐ Consent
☒ Departmental
☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor *Sundberg* Seconded by Supervisor *Fennell*

Ayes *Sundberg, Fennell, Bass, Wilson*
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent *Bohn*

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: *Apr. 4, 2017*

By: *[Signature]*
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

Sheriff Downey is recommending the Board consider appointing Undersheriff William Honsal to the position of Interim Sheriff. Staff concurs with this recommendation as Undersheriff Honsal has been the Undersheriff since November 2013. Prior to that he worked for Humboldt State University as a Sergeant and Lieutenant, for the District Attorney as an Investigator, and he was a patrol officer for the cities of Eureka and Sunnyvale. In total, he has 22 years of law enforcement experience, with progressively more responsibility with each new position. Undersheriff Honsal holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree, and has other certifications such as a Fire Fighter I, Emergency Medical Technician, Police Officer Standards and Training Advanced, and supervisory and management certificates. Undersheriff Honsal has also provided public outreach and education throughout the county on Measure S, the county's marijuana excise tax, as well as been instrumental in the enforcement of the county's medical marijuana land use ordinance. Undersheriff Honsal is willing to accept the interim appointment and would hold the position until December 31, 2018, when at such time a newly elected Sheriff would assume the position.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is minimal financial impact associated with the recommendation. Salaries and benefits for both the Sheriff and Undersheriff are included in the fiscal year 2016-17 budget and will be included in the proposed fiscal year 2017-18 budget.

This action supports your Board's strategic framework by enforcing laws and regulations to protect residents.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose to appoint another Interim Sheriff.

ATTACHMENTS:

Retirement letter



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL T. DOWNEY, SHERIFF/CORONER

CIVIL/COURTS
(707) 445-7335

MAIN STATION
826 FOURTH STREET • EUREKA CA 95501-0516
PHONE (707) 445-7251 • FAX (707) 445-7298

CUSTODY SERVICES
(707) 441-5159

[Handwritten signature]
February 10, 2017

Humboldt County Board Of Supervisors

I would like to take this opportunity to inform each of you of my intent to retire as Sheriff of Humboldt County, effective Saturday May 6, 2017. This decision has been one of the most difficult I have had to make in my 31 plus years as a member and Sheriff of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

I had always intended to serve, as Sheriff, for the full term but due to personal circumstances I have decided to retire mid-term. I am confident that the office will continue to operate extremely well in my absences, which has eased any apprehension I have had in the decision to retire.

I would also recommend that the Board of Supervisors appoint Undersheriff William Honsal to the office of Sheriff for the remainder of my term. If the board agrees I would suggest action be taken as soon as possible, after my last day as Sheriff of Humboldt County.

It has been a distinct honor to serve as Sheriff. I hold each of you with high regard and appreciate the great working relationship we have established.
Thank you again!

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of Michael T. Downey, is written in black ink.

cc:

Amy Nilsen, CAO
Dan Fulks, HR Director