

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF CORONER-MARSHAL

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UNDERSHERIFF

DEVON BELL

EDWARD N. BONNER SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

With recent tragic events throughout the nation, I have received many inquiries questioning where I stand regarding potential infringement upon the constitutional rights of citizens of Placer County. When I was hired on as a deputy sheriff 39 years ago and with each and every subsequent term as elected sheriff, I solemnly swore that I would support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies foreign and domestic and that I would bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the State of California.

That pledge, that oath has not changed. I believe that peace officers in a democratic society must love the Constitution in order to be effective. I do. Recent tragedies reflect conflicting values of our citizens that cannot be easily reconciled. These senseless tragedies can provide a chance to focus our energies and reforms on what everyone says they want – to get guns out of the hands of criminals and psychotics. Unfortunately, in times like these, harsh rhetoric can derail meaningful discussions.

I believe strongly that the prime responsibility of law enforcement is to protect the citizens and preserve the individual rights and freedoms provided by the Constitution. These basic rights are what make America a great country and those should never be threatened or compromised. In accordance with the Constitution, I believe that law abiding persons who meet the established requirements have a right to acquire, own, possess, use, keep and bear firearms.

The Constitution and Bill of Rights define us as a free people. To compromise or threaten one of these principles means to compromise and threaten all. Taken to extremes, we are no longer the land of the free and the home of the brave. We would bear a striking and shameful resemblance to other countries around the world where the state controls every aspect of our life.

I pledge to you, my residents, neighbors and friends, that I will do everything in my power to continue to work closely with all of our citizens, our schools, our mental health professionals and our extremely talented law enforcement partners to make this county and the communities within it as safe as we possibly can; while recognizing that our uniquely American rights granted by the Constitution come with tremendous responsibility and often haunting costs.