

Sheriff Shawn Holloway



Major Kenneth Paul

Chief Meyer Gilbert

Major Robert Bersi

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September 14, 2021

Re: COVID 19 Mandates

We are living in the most turbulent and challenging times for our families, community, and nation. Early in 2020 our world changed with the entrance of COVID 19. The fear and the unknown instantly changed our world with lockdowns. The burden placed on our communities during lockdowns left many out of work and wondering what was next.

During this time, we saw the entrance of mask mandates and various types of business's being forced to be closed. The intent of many of these mandates were to protect our communities. The issue with these forced mandates, they are clear violations of our constitutional rights. I opposed the mask mandates and stated we would not enforce them at the time.

We are now facing a new mandate in our community with vaccine mandates being announced recently. I do not have an issue with someone getting a vaccine or choosing not to get a vaccine. I feel this decision is the individual's choice and constitutional right to decide. I will not be forcing any employees of the Benton County Sheriff's Office to be vaccinated. I also will not be enforcing these unconstitutional vaccine mandates on our great citizens of Benton County to steal their freedom of choice.

We live in the greatest country in the world because of rights provided to us by the United States Constitution. **Freedom** is the greatest gift any person can have; we should never surrender the freedoms that so many have given all to protect. This was clearly stated by our forefathers in the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

I have served our great community for over 25 years and will do everything as your Benton County Sheriff to protect your Constitutional Rights. I took an oath to protect you and your families from both enemies foreign and domestic. I encourage you to stand up for your rights and to make a stand for all of our freedoms.

Sheriff Shawn Holloway

Detention

Criminal Investigation

Patrol

Reserve

Administration

Captain Harold Gage

Captain Thomas See

Captain Kurt Banta

Captain Neff Basore

Captain Andy Lee, Jr.