**Sheriff Ryan Spurling**

**Mason County Sheriff's Office**

**322 N 3rd St.**

**Shelton, WA 98584**

**MISSION STATEMENT**: The Mason County Sheriff's Office will be leaders in our community by providing the best law enforcement services possible.

**The office of the sheriff does not come with privilege nor authority but instead, responsibility. The Sheriff is responsible to every citizen of the county and is dedicated to strengthening community connections.**

The Matlock Community resides in the Mason County Jurisdiction. We are a small community whose Fire District 12 has been taken over by persons committing misappropriation of our tax dollars. District 12 was investigated by the office of the State Auditor producing a fraud investigation report. The purpose of the investigation was to determine if a misappropriation had occurred. The report contains unallowable and questionable activities at the district during the period January 1, 2017, through July 31, 2022. On May 10, 2022, the State Auditor recommended to the district fire commissioners to file a police report about the potential loss of public funds. This can be seen on Mason Web TV, September 20, 2022, Fire District 12 Commissioners meeting with the State Auditor’s Office. To date **NO** action has been taken by the district and no effort by the Sheriffs Department or the FBI has been taken to investigate this injustice. The lack of action has allowed those various individuals to continue to misappropriate our tax dollars while benefiting themselves, their friends, and other family members.

We as a community did the right thing and have tamped down the violence. We organized a recall effort. We raised over $13,000.00 in donations for the recall effort. We were successful at the Mason County Superior Court, Washington State Supreme Court, and finally with the vote of the people to recall all 3 fire commissioners with the average vote of 400 to 40. Due to the limited financial resources of those living in our rural community it is unlikely that we could ever pursue justice or redress through civil lawsuits. Those that had and or have the power to initiate a lawsuit on behalf of the Fire District are the individuals engaging in criminal activity. For those reasons we are at the mercy of the criminal justice system. Reviewing the Sheriff’s duties and oath we are at a loss to understand why no action is being taken.

**Powers and Duties**

1. Enforce the laws and arrest and commit to jail felons and other indicators of the law.

2. In addition to General Duties in 36.28.010, it shall be the duty of the Sheriff’s to make a complaint of all violations of the criminal law, which shall come to their knowledge within their respective jurisdictions.

**Oath RCW 36.16.120**

1. RCW 36.16.120 Any Sheriff, at the close of his term, leaves to his successor official labor to be performed, which it was his duty to perform, he shall be liable to his successor for the full value of such services.

2. Retiring Sheriff-deliver & turn over all writs and other processes in their possession which have not been executed. RCW 36.28.130

3. The successor shall execute or complete the executive of all such writs and processes, and finish and complete all business turned over to them. **SAO-sent to Prosecutor’s office Fraud Investigation Report.** RCW 36.28.130

As a community within your jurisdiction, we struggle to understand why our needs are going unanswered by the Sheriff’s Office. We are a community in fear for our homes and family members not having a reliable Fire District to service our needs. We are being shut out and are not permitted public comment during any decision-making process. There has been zero transparency of records, ongoing misappropriation, and high spending on Attorneys fees with our tax dollars. We did not yield our sovereignty, but it has been taken from us by this commission.

Due to the inaction of the Mason County Sheriffs Office and the Federal Bural of Investigation for the last year and a half, the criminal actions and misappropriations have continued. This inaction has also allowed a possible theft of our fire equipment on or about November 13, 2023, from the storage containers on site at Station 12-1.

The Matlock Community is pleading our case in hopes of receiving attention in this matter. Our trust and faith are being tested. On 10/31/23 we were required to send in our property tax payments. The inactions of law enforcement only fuel our disappointment and frustration while we are required to provide more funds to be misappropriated by these individuals.

Your attention would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Signature

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Printed Name

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Address