



## SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Pride in Service to Our Community*

**R. R. "Rick" Bart**  
Sheriff

May 9, 2007

Mayor Ben Tolson  
Post Office Box 1199  
Sultan, Washington 98294-1199

Dear Mayor Tolson,

On behalf of Sheriff Rick Bart and the rest of my staff, I want to thank you for your inquiry into contract law enforcement services with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

Earlier this year our staffs began working together to discuss the issues your city faces and answer many of the questions on the minds of Sultan City officials and citizens. During those conversations we heard that Sultan is considering police service contracting with Snohomish County because of the desire for stable, dependable police budgets, the desire for stability within your police department and community and your desire to continue the future planning and advancement of the Sultan Police Department.

I would like to recap some important points related to police contracting because I believe they speak to the issues Sultan is facing and how the Sheriff's Office can partner with Sultan for everyone's benefit.

Currently Chief Fred Walser is your Police Chief and he serves under civil service rules. That means if for some reason the City of Sultan were to want another Police Chief, Fred would have to resign or the city would be required to adequately document performance issues and terminate him. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office currently has eight lieutenants. If Sultan were to contract for a lieutenant as chief, it would be able to choose from those lieutenants. If the selected contract chief did not perform as expected, the city could merely ask for another lieutenant. The same holds true with all of the staff assigned to Sultan under a contract. We believe this aspect of contracting gives the city greater local control and flexibility than your current policing model gives you.

Currently the Sultan Police Department has an average tenure of three years for its officers which is the same as the average tenure in the City of Stanwood, which contracts for police services with us.

While the Sultan Police Department is fully staffed at this time its history has proven otherwise. A police services contract would guarantee that Sultan would have the contracted staffing levels without the excessive delays required to test, hire and train new or lateral officers. Here again, contracting provides enhanced local control.

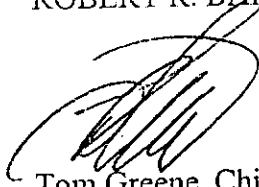
As we have discussed in our presentations, a police services contract would give Sultan the stable, predictable police budget that you are looking for. Our costs provide everything your city would need, including personnel, hiring, training, equipment and vehicles, to include future replacement costs of all of these. The transfer of liability exposure to the County usually represents a savings to contract cities as well, not to mention the accompanying peace of mind. We generally enter into three year service contracts which outline the costs for the life of the contract and we have a record of openly and honestly negotiating contract renewals with all of our contracting partners.

The final issue is local identity. We understand that wearing a uniform or driving a car with local identity is important but even more important to the leadership and citizens of Sultan is the connection your chief and officers have to your community. We support local identity and are very proud of the work done daily by our contract staff to support and connect with the citizens they work with. You will find that each of our contract cities have a connection to their local deputies just as the citizens of Sultan have with their officers.

Again thank you for your time and consideration and feel free to contact me or my staff if you have further questions or we can be of assistance. We stand ready to move forward with you, when you and your City Council are ready.

Sincerely,

ROBERT R. BART, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Greene', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Greene, Chief  
Administrative Services Bureau