

Charlotte County Sheriff

Candidate Questions – 2024

Name: Bill Prummell

Date: 06/17/2024

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing law enforcement in our community, and how do you plan to address them if elected?

We have seen the world change dramatically and law enforcement was not immune to it. We still have a lot of work to do in the mental Health and Substance Use Disorder arena, but I will address that in the next question.

One of the biggest areas is AI. The technology is evolving at record paces. We are seeing it in everything, and it is developing faster than the laws can keep up with it. We're seeing more and more where criminals are using this to prey upon victims and when law enforcement tries to use it to fight back, we are often met with groups and legislators saying we're invading people's privacy rights, tying our hands.

As Sheriff, I am and will continue to, educate myself and staff on what is out there, the potential threats, educate the public, and lobby for legislation, both at the State and Federal levels, that will better protect our citizens.

This is no easy task, but I have had many challenges through my career and have proven I am up for the challenge.

What is your approach to addressing mental health issues within the criminal justice system, and how do you plan to support individuals in crisis?

Over the last several years I have worked very closely with CBHC to address the issues of MH/SUD. I created a multi-disciplinary response team (IRIS) to respond to these types of calls. In doing so, we have diverted hundreds of people from the criminal justice system and to the services they need.

Those that do end up in the system, I formed a council made up of the Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Clerk of the Courts, Office of the Courts, and CBHC to address their cases so they do not get lost in the system and try and direct them to where they need to go.

My work got me recognized as I was appointed by Governor Desantis to chair the newly formed Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder. Here we are tackling the entire

State's system and working to break down the silos and develop a system of care that works for everyone. I have also met with incoming Senate President, Ben Albritton, on several occasions and he has agreed to make this topic a priority under his leadership.

So, I will continue to work, not only for Charlotte County, but to make the system of care work for and accessible to all Floridians.

What inspired you to run for sheriff, and what unique qualifications or experiences do you bring to this role?

I began my career with the SO as a reserve deputy volunteering my time. I have obtained various trainings/certifications and obtained two Master's Degrees.

My career expands 32 years, and I worked in and commanded virtually every area within the SO before being elected as your Sheriff back in 2012. I have managed a multi-million-dollar budget and have lead Charlotte County through some very tough times.

I have lived, worked, and breathed law enforcement virtually my entire adult life. When my predecessor decided to retire, I felt I had something to offer and could lead this agency into the future. I have done just that.

I have brought new programs, technology, and experience that has shown positive returns with our deduction in crime over the last 12 years.

Please answer each question in 300 words or less and email back to bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org on or before July 12, 2024.



**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**