

EL PASO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 29, 2014

*Statement by the Board of County Commissioners
regarding Sheriff Terry Maketa*

On May 12th, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners received a letter with employment complaints from three commanders within the Sheriff Office. The letter included a wide variety of allegations against the Sheriff, acting in his capacity as Sheriff, and asked the Board of County Commissioners to "initiate an investigation into the activities at the Sheriff's Office during Terry Maketa's term as the El Paso County Sheriff."

The Board of County Commissioners initiated that investigation on May 13th, 2014. Portions of the investigation are underway at this time.

Based on verified information provided, we believe that leadership within the Sheriff's Office has been compromised along with functionality within the Office. While the documents reviewed to this date do not show any illegal activity, and while this public statement does not affirm any employment related claims or accusations, there is a possibility that additional information could subsequently come forward which could result in further turmoil within the Sheriff's Office reducing the ability of the Sheriff to adequately lead and administer his Office.

The Board notes that that Sheriff Terry Maketa's Policy and Personnel Manual which is available on his public website offers the following statement regarding conduct in an Officer's **private life**:

"Police officers will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to their agencies or themselves. A police officer's character and conduct while off duty must always be exemplary, thus maintaining a position of respect in the community in which he or she lives and serves. The officer's personal behavior must be beyond reproach."

In the same Policy and Personnel Manual a statement about **integrity notes**,



"The public demands that the integrity of police officers be above reproach." The statement concludes, "Respect from the public cannot be bought; it can only be earned and cultivated."

At this time, the Board of County Commissioners believes there is disruption to the smooth and efficient administration and functions of the Office of the Sheriff. The Board believes Sheriff Maketa has lost the ability to appropriately lead the Office of the Sheriff.

The Board of County Commissioners has a responsibility, in partnership with other elected Offices, to ensure the efficient operations of all county offices on behalf of the public and to provide the foundation for the efficient daily operations of all County offices and departments.

To that end and based on current distractions and disruptions that compromise functionality and the public trust the Board of County Commissioners today supports a vote of no confidence in Sheriff Terry Maketa and publicly asks him to resign his Office effective immediately.

Signed this 29th day of May 2014 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO**

Dennis Hisey, Chair

Amy Lathen, Vice Chair

Sallie Clark, Member

Darryl Glenn, Member

Peggy Littleton, Member