

Open Letter to Fairfield County Residents on my Support for “Alex Lape, our next Fairfield County Sheriff”

I’m writing this letter to express my support for Chief Deputy Alex Lape of the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office on his quest to become our next Sheriff. I have known Chief Lape for over 14 years and developed a professional and personnel relationship with him over the last seven of those years. When I first met (then) Sgt. Lape, it was getting to know him as a fellow law enforcement officer when I was the elected Fraternal Order of Police Capital City Lodge #9 President from 2006 to 2012. Although Lodge #9 did not represent the members of the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office, in my capacity as the FOP President for the largest lodge in the State of Ohio I assisted their office several times regarding critical incidents. During that time I observed firsthand Sgt. Lape’s ability to handle stressful situations and remain very professional in how he went about his interactions with members of the public and with the subordinates in which he supervised.

In 2013 I started working much closer with (then) Lt. Lape in my capacity as a member of the command staff at the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. As a Chief Deputy myself, I can attest to what it takes to oversee and lead a Sheriff’s Office in the State of Ohio. Today’s Sheriff’s must have a good working knowledge of jail standards, procedural justice related initiatives, dealing with the mental health crisis, opiate epidemic and providing adequate professional law enforcement services to the communities in which they serve. The environment today for a professional law enforcement leader is constantly changing and good leaders must be able to understand and adapt to those changes. I believe that Alex Lape has the professional demeanor, character, integrity, work ethic and organizational knowledge to lead the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office into the future. That is why as a Violet Township resident, I support Alex Lape to be our next Fairfield County Sheriff!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gilbert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Gilbert
27 year veteran of law enforcement

Past President of Fraternal Order of Police
Capital City Lodge #9

Violet Township, Fairfield County resident