

For Immediate Release
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Sheriff Eric Higgins Announces for Re-election *wants to continue the progress his office has made*

(Little Rock) – Today, Pulaski County Sheriff Eric Higgins announced that he is seeking re-election to another four-year term as sheriff. Higgins also announced that Pastor William L. Robinson of North Little Rock and Dawne Vandiver of Little Rock will serve as co-chairs of his campaign. Sheriff Eric Higgins, first elected in 2018, is the first African-American Sheriff in Pulaski County in its 200 year history.

“Together we’ve made great strides in protecting our families and making the Sheriff’s Office more responsive to the community, but there is still more to do to continue our progress,” said Higgins. “We’ve created new community policing programs, and restarted others, to reduce crime and re-engage citizens with our department. These successful programs have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Pulaski County. We’ve strengthened our agency’s stability by increasing the salaries of our hard-working deputies and increased retention rates which ultimately protect our community by keeping experienced officers on the streets. It’s an honor to serve as Pulaski County’s Sheriff and I look forward to serving the community for another four years.”

Sheriff Higgins has worked hard in reaching out to the community by creating events such as commemorating the Agency’s “200 Year Anniversary” with a free community event to celebrate 200 years of serving the community. “Supper with the Sheriff” and “Coffee with a Cop” to help familiarize Pulaski County with him and his staff. Under his leadership, PCSO has partnered with AT&T Arkansas and the Arkansas Food Bank to place “Patrol Packs”, three days’ worth of non-perishable food in every patrol car. These food packs are given to members of the community who may have a need when they encounter deputies. He has also partnered with Life Abundant Ministries and CityServe to assist in distributing food throughout Pulaski County. With the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an even greater need to assist individuals in our community. Through these initiatives, PCSO has distributed over 400 food packs and several thousand pounds of food. Sheriff Higgins has also established the PCSO Community Advisory Committee.

“Our team has worked tirelessly to do all that we can to bring the community and law enforcement together because a positive relationship strengthens Pulaski County and makes it a safer place for all our families.”

“I’m also proud of our efforts to reduce recidivism rates by implementing re-entry programs in the Pulaski County Regional Detention Facility to help inmates develop new life and work skills and make it easier to reenter society once their jail sentence is completed,” said Higgins. “Being an effective Sheriff is more than just arresting criminals, it’s also working to prevent individuals from committing crime in the first place.”

In his first term, Sheriff Higgins has obtained close to \$2,000,000 in grants. These grants enabled PCSO to implement in-car cameras and Body Worn Cameras in the patrol division and in the Detention Center. He was also able to implement a re-entry program in the Pulaski County Regional Detention Facility to reduce recidivism and re-established the JR. Deputy mentoring program. Sheriff Higgins was the first law enforcement leader in the state to implement a "Duty to Intervene" and "Prohibiting Chokeholds" policies. He was instrumental in obtaining support for legislation that requires all Arkansas law enforcement agencies to conduct annual "Duty to Intervene" training. Sheriff Higgins also increased annual training for all deputies from 24 hours state requirement to 48 hours.

Higgins previously served for over 30 years with the Little Rock Police Department retiring as an Assistant Chief of Police.

Eric Higgins served as an instructor at Arkansas Baptist College for six years and was the Director of Outcomes Assessment with the National OK Program and a managing member of SOF Solutions LLC consulting, and was a volunteer with the re-entry program, The Exodus Project - Out for Life.

He is a member of the Volunteers in Public Schools (ViPS) Board, the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration Alumni, and the Leadership of Greater Little Rock Alumni (Class XXIII). He also serves as Vice President of the Governing Board of Lisa Academy Public Charter School.

Higgins grew up in Little Rock and graduated from Catholic High School. He earned a B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies: Government and Business and a M.A. in Human Services: Executive Leadership and Counseling from Liberty University.

Higgins and his wife Caron have been married for 30 years and are members of St. Mark Baptist Church. They live in Little Rock and have two daughters.

Eric Higgins is seeking the Democratic nomination in the May 2022 primary. The General Election is in November of 2022.

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