October 25, 2017

Statement on Extra Duty Assignments

We have recently had inquiries as to what our policy is around allowing deputies to be hired to work at private events. We wanted to take the time to clear up some misunderstanding of how this type of assignment works.

This type of work is called “extra duty” employment. To be clear, this work is paid for by the event organizer, not through the Sheriff’s Office budget. Some events, with special event permits, are required to hire law enforcement for safety reasons (e.g., a triathlon that has road closures or an event serving alcohol.) Other event organizers request extra duty law enforcement because they have some concern that either personal or property safety may be compromised during the event. The deputy’s role during these assignments is to keep the peace and ensure personal and property safety. They are not there to take a side in a particular issue.

The use of extra duty law enforcement is a long-standing practice, done not only here at the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office, but at law enforcement agencies around the country. Our deputies work a variety of extra duty assignments ranging from sporting events, to concerts, to religious services, to political rallies, to civil disputes, to weddings. In 2016, our deputies worked 13,578 hours of extra duty. Year-to-date in 2017, our deputies worked 10,869 hours of extra duty.

Another thing to keep in mind, is that if the event organizers were not to pay for security by having extra duty law enforcement on-site out of their own pockets, the residents of Boulder County would likely end up footing the bill, as we would end up having to respond to these types of events when issues arise. The use of extra duty assignments is a pro-active measure to ensure the safety of participants and property.

If you are interested in reviewing our policy regarding extra duty assignments, all of the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office policies are available to review online. The specific policy that pertains to extra duty work is Sheriff Policy #314 “Extra Duty and Off Duty Employment.”