

Article XVI--SHERIFF

SECTION 16.01 SHERIFF.

(1) **Powers and Duties.** All powers and duties now or hereafter vested in or imposed upon county sheriffs by general law shall be carried out by the appointed Sheriff. The Sheriff's powers and duties shall include appointing authority in accordance with Article IX of this Charter. The Sheriff shall also have such powers and duties as shall be established by this Charter or by ordinance that are not inconsistent with those provided by general law.

(2) **Qualifications.** The Sheriff shall possess and continue to maintain the qualifications provided by general law for the office of county sheriff. No person shall be appointed Sheriff unless such person:

- (a) Has had at least five years of experience in law enforcement or in correctional facilities management; and
- (b) Has obtained a baccalaureate in any field or an associate degree in law enforcement or criminal justice, from a college or university authorized to confer degrees by the Ohio Board of Regents or the comparable agency of another state in which the college or university is located.

(3) **Required Certification.** Newly appointed Sheriffs shall obtain or already possess one or more of the following certifications within one year, or other time period established by Council through resolution, following the date of first assuming office:

- (a) A jail operations certificate or comparable certification approved by the National Sheriffs Association;
- (b) A certified corrections executive certificate or comparable certification approved by the American Correctional Association;
- (c) A certified jail officer certificate or comparable certification approved by the American Jail Association; or

- (d) A professional certification or degree related to the management and operation of a jail as may be approved by the Council.

The office of a Sheriff who is required to comply with this section and who fails to obtain a certification pursuant to this section is hereby deemed to be vacant.

(4) **Appointment and Term.** The Sheriff shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by Council, for a term of four years. The incumbent Sheriff at the time this provision becomes effective shall serve a term ending December 31, 2020. Each subsequent Sheriff shall be appointed or reappointed for a term commencing on January 1, 2021, and every four years thereafter. Reappointments shall be subject to Council confirmation.

(5) **Removal.** During the Term of appointment, the Sheriff may be removed from office only for cause by resolution receiving the affirmative vote of at least eight members of the Council. The Council shall not vote on the question of the removal of the Sheriff until the Council has provided the Sheriff the opportunity to be heard and to present a case for retention in office. The Council may enter executive session to discuss the question of removal as provided by general law; provided the Council holds at least one public hearing where the Sheriff and the public have an opportunity to be heard.

(6) **Vacancy.** In the event of a vacancy prior to the expiration of the Sheriff's term, the County Executive shall appoint a successor to complete the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by Council. In the event a vacancy occurs less than two years prior to the expiration of the Sheriff's four-year term, the County Executive may appoint a Sheriff to complete the unexpired term and serve a subsequent four-year term, subject to confirmation by Council.

[Effective December 26, 2019; Article XVI, Section 16.01 added by the electors on November 5, 2019]