



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Troutdale Police Department Consolidation

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the Sheriff's Office have a different philosophy than our current Police Department?

Both departments focus on community policing strategies and engaging with citizens remains a high priority.

What will happen to the police department on July 1, 2015 citizens now know?

The police department will not be radically different. The officers will become deputies of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office but the officers would be the same initially and the department would be managed and equipped similarly. Citizens would likely discern no major difference.

Will the districts patrolled by Troutdale Police change when they become part of Multnomah County Sheriff's Office patrol districts?

The patrol districts will not change from the current Troutdale Police patrol districts. As the consolidation moves forward, districts will be renamed as part of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office patrol district configuration but service levels will remain the same.

Who would manage the consolidated department?

The Multnomah County Sheriff is an elected official. Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Staton is the current Sheriff and is the head of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. The current Chief of Troutdale Police Department will become a Commander in the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and will be assigned as the Commander of the Patrol division which will operate from the Troutdale Police Community Center.

A bond measure was passed in 2010 for the construction of the new police facility. What's happening with the building?

The city of Troutdale retains ownership of the building which will be leased by Multnomah County. A portion of the lease income, an amount to be determined by the Troutdale City Council, will be transferred to the bond debt service fund to reduce the annual property tax levy for Troutdale residents.

Would the quality of service provided residents rise or fall, and does this consolidation lead to duplication of services?

To the greatest extent possible, service levels would remain the same or will be enhanced. Duplication of service is unlikely; redundant systems and operations will be eliminated to achieve the same or enhanced service levels at reduced costs to citizens.

Is consolidation generally viewed as the best use of tax dollars?

Elected officials and city administrators have an obligation to provide the best possible services at the lowest cost to the public. Consolidation is viewed as an excellent way of achieving these competing goals. It is not a panacea for all issues with respect to policing, but it is a viable alternative to make the delivery of police services more efficient and cost effective.

Will the current officers and civilian employees of the Troutdale Police Department still have jobs?

Under ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 236.610 Rights of employee when duties assumed by different public employer; employer duties

- (1) No public employee shall be deprived of employment solely because the duties of employment have been assumed or acquired by another public employer.

All of the employees from Troutdale Police Department will transfer and become employees of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. Seniority and other benefits earned while in the employment of the Troutdale Police Department are items that have been negotiated between the various employee organizations involved in the consolidation process. In general, consolidation seeks to recognize and protect the standing of all employees involved.

How many employees does the Sheriff's Office currently have?

The Sheriff's Office has approximately 780 employees, 561 Sworn officers, 219 civilian employees.

What areas does the Sheriff's Office currently patrol?

From Sauvie Island in the west, south to Dunthorpe, and extending east to the Columbia River Gorge, Sheriff's Office patrol deputies cover over 280 square miles of unincorporated Multnomah County; vast areas that surround the incorporated cities of Portland, Gresham, Troutdale and Fairview where approximately 28,400 people live. MCSO also has contracts to provide law enforcement services to the cities of Wood Village and Maywood Park.

What services does MCSO offer the Troutdale Police Department doesn't currently?

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office brings several new services to Troutdale including a Narcotics and Vice enforcement unit (SIU), comprehensive investigative services, Dive Team, Motorcycle/traffic team, Drug lab/HAZMAT Mitigation Team, Swift Water Rescue Team, Full service Search and Rescue (SAR), narcotics and tracking K9 Unit, Warrant Strike Team, Community Resource Officers, annual Citizen's Academy, Inmate Work Crews, Special Events Management.

In addition, many services provided by the Troutdale Police Department will be enhanced by the consolidation with the Sheriff's Office, including 24/7 sergeant staffing, 24/7 full service Records Unit, full time dedicated Training Unit, full service Property/Evidence Unit, full command structure of MCSO, full service Detective Unit, River Patrol Unit and Reserve Officer programs.

Currently, due to staffing shortages, the Troutdale police do not staff a supervising Sergeant around the clock. This consolidation model provides for additional staffing which is an officer safety issue and a general public safety enhancement.