



**Candidate Questionnaire for
Sheriff of the City & County of San Francisco
General Election, November 3, 2015**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Thursday, July 30th**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to participate in the August 4th debate. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: **John Robinson**
Contact person: **Dishonne Robinson**
Email address: **jrobinsonforsheriff@gmail.com**
Phone number: **415 317-0200**
Web site: **robinsonforsheriff.com**

Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

I am a former Lieutenant in the Sheriff's Department. I have served in every facet of the department as Administrative Assistant to Sheriff Richard Hongisto, Background Clearance and Training Officer and served in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions. For five years, I was Operational Commander of the Emergency Service Unit. I have received a Certificate of Honor from The San Francisco City and County Board of Supervisor for my outstanding work as the Inter Perimeter Mass Arrest Commander during the 1984 Democratic Convention. I was named Supervisor of the Year in 1986 for demonstrating qualities of humanitarianism, fairness and exceptional judgement. Presently I am owner of Inter- State Security Inc., a privately owned security company which employs 34 people. However, I consider my strongest qualification is that I know and love the Sheriff's Department and the people who it is responsible for.

2. What are the top three issues facing the Sheriff's department, and what will you do about those issues?

- A. Employee morale and dissatisfaction with current leadership.
- B. Recidivism and its impact on the jail population.
- C. Adherence to policies, procedures and protocols.

Morale can be impacted through training and communication. These things improve and strengthen leadership. San Francisco County has the highest recidivism rate in the state. Programs that are operating inside of the jail should be audit to determine their effectiveness in

lowering recidivism. Deputies, clearly are not adhering the policies, procedures and protocols established to help them in the performance of their duties and their public safety responsibilities which demonstrate a breakdown in authority and accountability.

3. Do you support the building of a new jail? Why or why not?

No. Generally the argument for building a new jail facility is that the jail is overcrowded or the facility is antiquated. Neither of these arguments are valid in that San Francisco has built three jails in the last thirty years, and the Sheriff alleges that the number of people incarcerated is at its lowest level so actual bed space is not an issue. The state is attempting to get out of the jail building business and San Francisco should do the same. Let's evaluate current facilities and determine their effectiveness.

4. Should the training and discipline of Sheriff's deputies be changed? If so, how?

Yes, training regiments should be increased especially in the area of classification and handling of the Mentally Ill. What has been changing over the decades is that more people are entering our jails who are challenged with mental issues. Understanding how to classify and manage will ultimately determine the success of their period of incarceration.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. We look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on August 4th.

Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club