

THE DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS

2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Sheriff

NOTE TO CANDIDATES: The information you provide on this questionnaire will be posted on the Dolphin Democrats website and social media. Please include a recent photo of yourself to be posted with your questionnaire

Candidate Name: **Scott Israel**

Office Sought: **Broward County Sheriff**

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Please answer the following questions:

Are you a member of the Dolphin Democrats? **Yes.**

Are you a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus? **No.**

Do you identify as LGBT? **No.**

Are you a member of the Broward Democratic Executive Committee? **No.**

Would you condemn instances of hate speech in Broward County? **Yes. I already have in the past.**

Do you believe that a woman has the right to terminate her unwanted pregnancy? Please Explain.

Yes, I strongly support Roe v. Wade. I believe that a woman's right to choose should not be compromised or infringed upon.

Do you support legislation that would require background checks for all gun purchases?

Yes. I have been very vocal as Sheriff about my support for strong gun control legislation to curb the national epidemic of gun violence. More thorough background checks, and closing the gun show loophole, are just two aspects of the much broader legislation I believe is needed (i.e., reinstate the federal assault weapons ban, etc.).

Do you believe it should be illegal for anyone on the No-Fly list to purchase a gun? Please Explain.

Yes. Individuals on the federal government's terrorist "no fly" watch list should not be allowed to purchase firearms. If you are too dangerous to be allowed on a plane, you are too dangerous to acquire weapons.

Do you support legislation to ban clips that hold more than ten rounds? **Yes.**

As a Constitutional Officer, would you voluntarily comply with the Broward County Ethics Ordinance?

All Florida sheriffs are governed by the extensive ethics laws contained in Florida Statutes and in the Florida Administrative Code, and enforced by the Florida Ethics Commission.

Do you feel Constitutional Officers should be elected in non-partisan elections? Please explain.

No. I feel that partisan elections allow voters to understand where candidates, and elected officials align themselves on fundamental beliefs.

Do you feel the Sheriff should be elected in a non-partisan election? Please explain.

No. I believe there are differences between Democrats and Republicans in terms of their priorities and how they govern, and voters should retain the right on the ballot to know this information. And I'm proud to be a progressive Democrat.

Have you ever registered to participate in a LGBT Pride parade (e.g. The Wilton Manors Stonewall Pride Parade)? If so, how many, when were they, and where were they held?

Yes. I have enjoyed participating in the Stonewall Street Festival and Parade for many years now. In the Stonewall Parade just a few weeks ago, I was proud to have two separate entries in the parade: one for the Broward Sheriff's Office, and another for my re-election campaign. I proudly marched – as I have done in the past – with our out LGBT deputies and firefighters.

Do you support the current County ordinance providing LGBT people protection in employment, housing, and public service?

Yes. We have identical protections already at BSO.

Would you include gender confirmation surgery as a healthcare benefit for transgender BSO employees?

BSO's current provider (Aetna) "considers gender reassignment surgery medically necessary" so long as certain criteria is met.

Do you support providing BSO employees with Domestic Partners the same benefits as are given to married couples?

Yes. BSO already has these policies in place.

Do you support every deputy wearing a bodycam while on duty in all public interactions? **Yes.**

Would you institute a policy that turning off a bodycam while on duty during a public contact is considered misconduct for a deputy?

Yes. The BSO policy manual has already adopted a detailed body worn camera (BWC) policy that sets forth how and when the cameras are to be used. State law and our manual provide certain instances when BWC's are to be turned off (interviewing a victim of a sexual battery, children, meeting with a confidential informant, and other narrowly defined situations). Violations of the manual are already deemed to be misconduct by our agency.

Would you implement the federal guidelines for Community Policing?

Yes. My administration has embraced the concept of community policing, and we are seen as a model for many other jurisdictions. Our training division is studying the new federal guidelines to find more "best practices" to adopt for BSO. We will always adopt whatever new and evolving policies and procedures make us a better agency for our employees and those we serve.

Would you institute sensitivity training for deputies on how to handle LGBT domestic issues?

All domestic violence incidents and domestic disturbance calls are taken very seriously already, including those in the LGBT community. A victim of domestic violence is a victim of domestic violence, and we treat all such victims – gay and straight alike – as victims, using compassion, respect and understanding. This is already a component of the message our BSO training division imparts to our deputies.

Do you agree there should be procedures in place to allow the safety of LGBT detainees from other detainees in BSO vehicles?

We already have procedures in place to protect these vulnerable prisoners. Prisoners who self-identify as LGBT, along with other prisoners we visibly perceive to be vulnerable (including those prisoners perceived by other prisoners to be LGBT), are already housed and transported with like prisoners in order to best safeguard them. In the case of self-identified LGBT prisoners, and those perceived by other prisoners to be LGBT, these prisoners are already housed in a protective unit in the Main Jail downtown. This avoids having to transport them in vehicles for court hearings, as deputies simply walk them across the street to the courthouse.

What policies would you implement to ensure the safety of LGBT detainees in BSO vehicles?

See above answer. These procedures already exist at BSO.

How would you protect LGBT inmates from other inmates in BSO facilities?

See above answer. These procedures already exist at BSO.

How would you ensure that deputies do not selectively enforce the law to discriminate against minorities?

The best protection against discrimination involves hiring the best candidates, a robust Training Division, monitoring our policing actions (including statistical analysis), and setting the right tone from the top of the agency on down. This transparency and accountability I insist upon at BSO – and something being enhanced with the body worn camera program I launched last year for our deputies – is another essential protection. Next is enforcing our policies through our Internal Affairs Division, to ensure compliance with the highest standards of conduct I expect from all our employees. These are the best steps to avoid discriminatory problems.

Do you believe in sensitivity training for BSO deputies in dealing with the homeless, mentally ill, and developmentally disabled?

Yes, and we already have this training at BSO. I greatly expanded our crisis intervention training (CIT) to prepare deputies for circumstances when they come in contact with people suffering from mental illness. We are also teaching our deputies de-escalation tactics to better protect those we serve. Finally, when it comes to helping the homeless, I believe jailing them for minor offenses is the most expensive and least effective thing one could do. Instead, I created BSO's homeless intervention training (HIT) program so that deputies in each district have the tools to help the homeless get the social services they need. My homeless outreach initiative has been so successful it won the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) prestigious Civil Rights Award for 2014. The homeless and mentally ill are not problem people, they are people with problems – problems that we can often help.

What do you believe the most effective methods for the BSO to use in dealing with substance abuse in Broward County?

I vocally supported Mayor Kiar's new county ordinance which created an adult civil citation program for adults caught in possession of misdemeanor amounts of marijuana. In fact, I am one of the only Sheriffs in Florida who support this approach to marijuana. When it comes to heroin, all of our BSO Fire Rescue vehicles are now equipped with the opiate antidote Narcan to save the lives of an individual experiencing a life-threatening overdose. I understand drug addiction is an illness. I have dear friends who are long-time recovering addicts, and are very active in the recovery community. Finally, I have worked to cut the supply chain for the most dangerous drugs. BSO participated in a US State Department and US Homeland Security mission to China last year, which successfully convinced them to crackdown on the production and exportation of Flakka and other deadly synthetic drugs which were flooding Broward's streets. Since then, we have seen a significant reduction of these synthetic drugs in Broward (and in the United States as a whole).

Do you support public funding for employment development for transgender individuals? **Yes.**

Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:

No. I would also note I'm a life member of a labor union (Fraternal Order of Police).

Have you ever received reprimands or been suspended as the result of an internal affairs investigation? Please explain. **No.**

Do you support the BROWARD COUNTY COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT ON SCHOOL DISCIPLINE which protects students from being arrested for minor non-violent misdemeanors and which defers the students to the Promise Program School Disciplinary Process keeping them outside of the criminal justice court system? Why or why not?

Yes. In fact, the Broward Sheriff's Office under my leadership was instrumental in developing the PROMISE Program in cooperation with the School Board, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, and the State Attorney's Office. PROMISE has become a national model in breaking the "schoolhouse to jailhouse" pipeline. I have always said that in law enforcement, I believe our success should be measured by how many kids we keep out of jail, not how many we arrest.

Do you consider yourself an LGBT ally? Why or why not?

Absolutely! I am a very strong and vocal LGBT ally. As I assembled my leadership team at BSO, I wanted the very best people. When you judge people based upon merit, skills and ability, everything else will fall into place. Because of this broadly inclusive approach, I have out LGBT individuals serving throughout our agency from deputies and firefighters, all the way up to the highest levels of my senior command staff. I am proud that BSO reflects the amazing diversity of our community better today than ever before – and this includes in terms of race and gender, too. We truly mirror the vibrant diverse community we represent.

Please state in 125 words or less what you feel are the strengths you bring, the primary goals you have for the office you are seeking, and why you feel the LGBT Community should support your candidacy.

I am a vocal, tested and proven advocate for LGBT equality. This extends to my leadership at BSO and building upon Broward's diversity to build the best team and treat all those we serve with dignity and respect. Under my strong leadership, BSO launched innovative crime-fighting approaches that made Broward safer. Violent crime is down 18.4% and burglaries dropped 42.3% in areas patrolled by BSO over the past three years. And we have become a more transparent agency that sees the community as our partners in building a better, stronger, and united Broward for all of us. I ask for your support in my bid for reelection, as I would proudly hold myself out as a Dolphin Democrats-endorsed candidate.

By signing this questionnaire, you are stating that if selected you would accept the Dolphin Democrats public support and endorsement.

Signature

Scott J. Inard

Date: July 13, 2016