



Mike Walker

DEWITT COUNTY SHERIFF

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To the citizens of DeWitt County:

On January 13, our state legislators passed HB 3653. This legislation was presented as a police reform bill. It is my opinion, as well as the opinion of many law enforcement officials' across the state that this bill will make our communities less safe. The unfunded mandates that are included in this legislation will also increase the financial burden of our local taxpayers. This legislation (764 pages) was introduced by the Illinois Senate in the middle of the night and voted on less than one hour after it was introduced. Just a few hours later this legislation was brought to the house floor and ultimately passed, and now goes before the Governor for his signature. The concern that many have with this process is the legislators' refusal to have meaningful discussions with law enforcement. The fact that a 764 page document was approved without any substantial review by the member of the Senate or House. This bill was pushed through during a "lame duck" session, and the sponsors of the bill were unable to answer basic questions about discrepancies and contradictions.

Over the past week, I have received numerous phone calls, messages and an outpouring of support for our office and law enforcement on social media. I would like to thank everyone for their support. I want to assure the citizens of DeWitt County that despite efforts to defund the police, my office will continue to provide the quality and professional service that we have always strived to provide.

I am honored to serve as your Sheriff and lead an exceptional staff of professional men and women.

Sheriff Mike Walker