



September 2010

Dear fellow Democrat,

We are writing because we believe strongly that Peter Meskill should be re-elected Sheriff of Tompkins County. Over the last 12 years, Sheriff Meskill has shown administrative leadership and provided innovative, progressive law enforcement that all of us respect. For all of the following reasons, we hope you will **join us in supporting Peter Meskill, a lifelong Democrat, in the primary on September 14.**

**A Partner in County Government:** Sheriff Meskill and the current County Administrator work well together, collaborating on grant proposals, technology initiatives, and budget issues. Sheriff Meskill's partnership with other department heads has resulted in stronger programs to reduce recidivism, including an innovative "re-entry to the community" program in the jail.

**Advocate for Diversity and Inclusion:** Sheriff Meskill has made a priority of increasing diversity in the department and implementing training for all staff on issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and cultural differences. He has ensured that inclusion is the norm for delivery of services to the public. Early in the Sheriff's tenure, he appointed seasoned corrections officer Debra Niemi as the first woman to head the jail, to work with him to cut costs and bring the jail into compliance with state regulations.

**Exceptional Manager:** Sheriff Meskill's management of the jail, including achieving accreditation from the NYS Sheriffs' Association, has been so exemplary that he obtained State approval for increased jail capacity. This saves taxpayers \$250,000 or more in board out costs annually. But the approval is only granted for six months at a time; do we want to risk losing that approval by handing management of the jail over to someone without experience?

**Strong Advocate for His Department:** Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Meskill has fought vigorously for his agency's budget and staff, within the county's fiscal constraints. He is a "co-employer" with the County, which means that the Legislature - not the Sheriff - sets the parameters for contract negotiations and appoints the negotiating team. Unfortunately, the road patrol has been working without a new contract since 2006. In tough economic times, negotiations have been difficult but the two sides are working through the process as set by state law.

**Skilled Leader:** Sheriff Meskill successfully oversees a force that patrols every corner of our diverse county. Using his broad experience - in the private sector, as a county legislator, and as Sheriff for 12 years - he's honed the skills needed to manage a staff of 90 and a budget of more than \$7,000,000.

**Results that Matter for Families and Neighborhoods:** A recent *Ithaca Journal* article credited the Sheriff's Department with a 69 percent decline in burglaries, a result of proactive, community based policing combined with targeted patrols by deputies. Sheriff Meskill has shown a keen sensitivity in supporting victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. He has secured grants to enhance patrols for drunk drivers, and his record of promoting child safety is the envy of other counties throughout the state.

**As taxpayers and citizens concerned about the safety of the community, we like these results and want to see Peter Meskill returned for four more years as our sheriff. Please join us in voting for him in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

*See over for signatures*

## **Just a Few of Sheriff Meskill's Many Supporters**

Molly Adams	Pat Leary
Renata Ballard	Kathy Leinthal
Karen Basher	Bev Livesay
Tom Basher	Roxanne Marino
Joyce Bennett	Gary Marsden
Tom Bennett	Jackie Merwin
Barbara Blanchard	Jack Miller
Elvira Brockman	Erica Naylor
Frank Brockman	Tom Niederkorn
Jules Burgevin	Deb Niemi
Patti Burgevin	Laura Norman
Karin Burke	Paul Norman
Richard Burke	David Owens
Kelly Damm	Karen Powers
Jim Dennis	Pat Pryor
Mary Pat Dolan	Florence Ricciuti
Henrik Dullea	Ann Rider
Janice Esman	Martha Robertson
Bernice Feller	Teresa Robinson
John Feller	Marcy Rosenkrantz
Kath Fenzel	Nathan Shinagawa
Martha Ferger	Irene Stein
Renate Ferro	Peter Stein
Lori Gardner	Sandy Stein
Pat Gleason	Mary Ann Sumner
Carol Glidden	Don Taylert
Jim Glidden	Sally Taylert
Dolores Higareda	Liz Thomas
Wendy Hoose	Lucia Tyler
Sara Johnson	Mary White
Daniel Konowalow	Philip White

**Remember to Vote Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>!**