

PRESS RELEASE 11-11-2009

Sheriff Jim Hammond would like to respond to recent inquiries from Hamilton County citizens regarding the City of Chattanooga's annexation plans.

The sheriff says he opposes the current annexation plan, basically because he believes the citizens should have the right to vote on it, and so far, they have not been given that right.

The sheriff wants to assure the citizens in the proposed annexation areas that he has no intention of abandoning any services to them and Hamilton County Deputies will continue to patrol and service these areas until annexation takes place, if it does.

Right now, Phase 1 involves Cummings Cove, Ramsgate, Big Ridge, parts of Ooltewah and Collegedale areas and an area east of Morris Hill Road. Phase 2 involves property in Hurricane Creek, Stonewall Farms, Windstone, some commercial property along Highway 58 and an unoccupied area on the side of Lookout Mountain. Sheriff's deputies currently patrol and service all these areas.

Sheriff Hammond said, "Lawsuits will delay the outcome and final dates of annexation for these areas and will determine when we will discontinue our services there. The sheriff believes the only section that has not filed a law suit with the other residents is Cummings Cove. The sheriff says his officers also will continue to provide back-up anytime City officers need assistance.

Sheriff Hammond also wants to remind Hamilton County citizens that the sheriff has a constitutional responsibility to provide certain services such as civil process service throughout the county and that his narcotics, fugitive, criminal investigation and marine divisions will always serve the entire county as well. The sheriff vows that county residents will receive the same high level of professional services with or without annexation. Sheriff Hammond states, "The safety and well being of our citizens will always be 'Job One' for me."

