

**YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Resolution No. 26-66

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN INTERIM SHERIFF FOR YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA**

WHEREAS, Sheriff Mike Linder is retiring from his post as Yellowstone County Sheriff effective July 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to appoint an interim sheriff effective August 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Captain Kent O'Donnell is currently a captain with the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated § 2-16-501 authorizes the filling of vacancies in public offices as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated § 7-4-2206 sets forth the authority and procedure for county governing bodies to fill vacancies in certain county offices, including sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that a vacancy in the Office of Sheriff will occur upon the effectiveness of Sheriff Linder's retirement and that appointment of an interim sheriff is necessary and appropriate to ensure the continued, orderly, and uninterrupted performance of the duties of the Office of Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that Captain Kent O'Donnell possesses the qualifications, experience, and leadership necessary to serve as Interim Sheriff of Yellowstone County effective August 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Yellowstone County, Montana, that:

1. Appointment. Effective August 1, 2026, Captain Kent O'Donnell is hereby appointed to serve as Interim Sheriff of Yellowstone County.
2. Term of Service. Captain Kent O'Donnell shall serve as Interim Sheriff until a successor is duly appointed or elected and qualified, or as otherwise provided by law.
3. Duties and Authority. The Interim Sheriff shall have all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Office of Sheriff under Montana law during the term of this appointment.

Passed and Adopted on the 9th day of June 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA.

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Mark Morse, Chair

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Michael J. Waters, Member

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Chris White, Member

ATTEST:

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Jeff Martin, Clerk and Recorder