



BARBALUNGA FOR SHERIFF

Press Release: 7/27/22

“Justice That Works”

Contact: Katherine Yon, Communications Director: klyon1105@aol.com

MORE ON BOWLER’S “SPECIAL SHERIFF” CONTROVERSY

Sheriff Tom Bowler, who promised the public transparency at the jail, is using smoke and mirrors to confuse the public on what money is being spent at the jail and where it comes from.

After Alf Barbalunga raised concerns over Bowler’s line-item listing of a part-time \$78,000 staff position for a "Special Sheriff," which is supposed to be a “ceremonial” job, Bowler says his former retired jail superintendent actually earns a \$0 salary as “Special Sheriff.” But as shown below, this staff position is still on the budget. The FY 2022 budget clearly shows a "Special Sheriff" line item with annual cost of \$78,000:

Statewide Payroll Home Mass.gov Comptroller Home CTRU Home Sign In

Open Payroll **\$36,309** John Quinn - SDB - Special Sheriff - SDB 2022

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT BERKSHIRE (SDB)

Job Title Special Sheriff - SDB	Bargaining Group No Union	Other Pay \$0
Department SHERIFF DEPARTMENT BERKSHIRE (SDB)	Employment Type Part Time Employee	Total Pay \$36,309
Annual Rate \$78,000	Paid Thru July 2, 2022	

Pay Check

Last Name	First Name	Bargaining Group	Base Pay	Total Pay
Quinn	John	No Union	\$36,308.78	\$36,308.78

Payroll Details

Bowler says the former superintendent's pay “actually came from grants that reimbursed the jail,” including the Medically Tailored Meals program and the Second Street Second Chances program (a grant obtained by BCC in February 2022). In other words, the pay is real and was paid up front to the retired superintendent by the jail from its budget allocation.

The reimbursement source may be from a third-party, but the sheriff's budget does not show where this or other third-party revenue is sourced or credited. The sheriff simply says the retired superintendent is a "consultant". But he is listed as a payroll position, not as a consultant.

The retired superintendent, who receives a \$117K pension from the State, recently contributed to Sheriff Bowler's campaign, and he listed his employment on an Office of Campaign Finance report as "retired." Yet he remains on the jail's payroll and was paid by the jail another \$36,309 on top of his pension through 7/2/22. Last year Sheriff Bowler also included the "Special Sheriff" in his budget, and the superintendent was paid \$42,037 as Special Sheriff. It is immaterial that some or all of that pay came from a third-party grant -- it is still revenue distributed at the top of the sheriff's food chain. Here is the FY 2021 payment:

The screenshot shows the 'Statewide Payroll Home' interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Mass.gov', 'Comptroller Home', and 'CTHRU Home'. A search bar is present on the right. The main content area displays the following information:

- Open Payroll:** \$155,342 John Quinn - SDB - Contract Employee - Sheriff 2021
- Entire Payroll:** \$8.39 billion - 100.00% of all
- Employee:** John Quinn - SDB - Cont... \$155,342 - 0.00% of all

Special Sheriff - SDB	No Union	\$8,100
Department: SHERIFF DEPARTMENT BERKSHIRE (SDB)	Employment Type: Part Time Employee	Total Pay: \$42,037
Annual Rate: \$28,542	Paid Thru: December 18, 2021	

Superintendent - SDB	Bargaining Group: Berkshtr Cty Sheriffs Emp Assoc	Other Pay: \$0
Department: SHERIFF DEPARTMENT BERKSHIRE (SDB)	Employment Type: Full Time Employee	Total Pay: \$112,221
Annual Rate: \$156,193	Paid Thru: December 4, 2021	

The sheriff oversees his administrative salary budget like a private empire with those executives at the very top taking home salaries that are stratospheric. Grant money that could be used to pay for food for the meals program recipients is trickling up to the top to help his former executive and friend potentially earn close to \$200,000 this year, while the average salary in Berkshire County is only \$37,000.

What the personnel budget shows in this case is a "Special Sheriff," who says he's retired and is drawing a six-figure pension, plus making a \$78,000 salary as a "Special Sheriff." This is why Barbalunga raised questions about the budget.

"Bowler's budget needs multiple independent audits, and, as sheriff, one of the first things I will do is ask the Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and/or the State Auditor to inspect the books and make recommendations. This administrative operation is about as clear as mud."

Barbalunga noted that before issuing his earlier press release, he checked with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office and found there was no evidence of official notification that the retired Superintendent was appointed Special Sheriff, as required by law. Please note the response from the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lam, Macy (SEC)** <macy.lam@state.ma.us>

Date: Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 11:31 AM

Subject: RE: Request for Name of the Berkshire Special Sheriff

To: [REDACTED]

Good morning,

After an extensive search our office does not have any records or Form O on file for a Special Sherriff of Berkshire county. Please let me know if you need anything else.

From

Macy Lam

Assistant Supervisor

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Commissions Division

One [Ashburton Place, Room 1719](#)

[Boston, MA 02108](#)

617-727-2836

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TIME FOR A CHANGE



JUSTICE THAT WORKS