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Republican launches campaign for sheriff

By MICHAEL MAJCHROWICZ
@mjmajchrowicz

Thursday, June 23, 2016

SOUTH HADLEY — David F. Isakson, a longtime Hadley Police officer, made his campaign for Hampshire County sheriff official with the announcement of his candidacy earlier this month.

Isakson, 44, of South Hadley, the sole Republican in the race, joins a field of three Democrats who are also vying for soon-to-be-retired Sheriff Robert Garvey's position. Garvey has led the sheriff's department since 1984.

Isakson has been a police officer for 14 years, including the last eight in Hadley. He is also president of the Hadley Police Association as well as department secretary/liaison to the Massachusetts Police Association.

"I am seeking the office of Hampshire County Sheriff based on my qualifications, public safety experience and the belief that the next sheriff of Hampshire County should not be decided by a few individuals behind closed doors, but by the voters of Hampshire County," Isakson said in a statement.

"The sheriff's office can and should be more than just a jail. It should be a modern, proactive and community involved facility committed to reducing crime, reducing recidivism and saving taxpayers money," he said.

"I am the candidate that will bring an outside perspective, policy reform and fiscal responsibility to the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office."

There will be a kickoff reception for Isakson's campaign at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Hadley Farms Meeting House. All are welcome to attend.

The three Democratic candidates are Patrick Cahillane, 58, of Leeds; Kavern Lewis, 28, of Amherst; and Melissa E. Perry, 53, of Northampton. That field will be narrowed to one in the Democratic primary Sept. 8. The winner will face Isakson in the Nov. 8 general election.

Michael Majchrowicz can be reached at mmajchrowicz@gazettenet.com or 413-585-5234.

