

Editorial: Rambosk, Scott deserve to be counties' top cops

By Staff Reports

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Races for sheriff highlight the ballot of Aug. 26, for which early voting starts on Monday. In both counties the choices are clear.

Collier County

Kevin Rambosk is the logical successor to Don Hunter, who has served as Collier County sheriff since 1989. We thought so even before Rambosk left the city of Naples — where he had served as police and fire chief and city manager — to join the Sheriff's Office as captain of the organized crime division in 2003.

Hunter has built a strong, effective, modern law-enforcement agency, and Rambosk is ready to take it to the next level. That means more street-level community policing, which he helped master in the city of Naples.

Rambosk leads by example. He will be the point man for the agency connecting with the public it serves. He will set the standard for being approachable and following through on citizens' complaints, suggestions and crime tips.

Rambosk is ahead of the curve on putting technology to work fighting crime and getting information out to the public. He knows the value of building bridges with other counties too.

He exhibits grace under fire. The community well remembers his calm, assured leadership after the shooting of a black man by a white officer in the city's predominantly black River Park neighborhood in 2001. As city manager he went from door to door to diffuse tension and restore trust in the city and the agency he once led.

Modern-day Collier has had only three sheriffs — Doug Hendry, Aubrey Rogers and Hunter. Rambosk is ready to join them.

Who can vote? All of the 198,000 voters in the county. Because this race features all Republican candidates, balloting is open to everyone.

What happens next? The candidate receiving the most votes wins outright and takes office. There will be no runoff.

Also in race: Vinny Angiolillo and Victor Ortino.
