

# HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Media Advisory



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### Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol Adds New Public Safety Duties

**November 18, 2009** – On Thursday, November 19 at 7p.m., Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek will be swearing-in members of the newly-reorganized Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol Unit. The event will take place at Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Patrol Headquarters, 9401 83rd Ave N, Brooklyn Park.

Currently, the Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol consists of 16 civilian volunteers and their horses. In the past, the volunteers rode in ceremonial events to represent the Sheriff's Office. Now, with additional training, the unit will be prepared to accept public safety duties that will include security patrol at public events, search and rescue, evidence searches, and assistance at natural disasters.

"I am grateful to the Mounted Patrol for volunteering their time to the Sheriff's Office," said Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek, "Their talent and their training will allow us to offer another tool in public safety throughout Hennepin County."

Mounted patrol members provide their own horses and trailers. They pay to maintain and transport their horses. Members complete formal training each month with the Sheriff's Office and they train on their own time as well. The Sheriff's Office provides the Mounted Patrol with uniforms and some equipment for their horses.

Retired police officer, A.C. Hart has been a Mounted Patrol volunteer at the Sheriff's Office for more than a decade. Hart and all of the members of the Mounted Patrol have earned the title "special deputy," which is the designation for all highly-trained civilian volunteers at the Sheriff's Office.

Hart worked in several different law enforcement agencies during his career, including the Minneapolis Police Department.

“I’ve was a police officer for over 41 years. At some point it is no longer what you do but becomes a large part of who you are,” said Hart, “The Sheriff’s Office Mounted Patrol allows me to keep that connection.”

Hart is an experienced instructor and he’ll be teaching crowd control and defensive tactics to the other members of the Mounted Patrol. Hart and his quarter horse named Rebel have appeared in many parades on behalf of the Sheriff’s Office and he’s enthusiastic about the expanded list of public safety duties for the unit.

“A horse can travel into some areas that a wheeled vehicle can not travel,” said Hart.

Many members of the Sheriff’s Office Mounted Patrol have already completed the training needed in order to carry out their new responsibilities. The unit continually trains and competes in an effort to maintain readiness for both horse and rider. In a Mounted Patrol clinic in September in Litchfield, Minnesota, a team from the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Mounted Patrol earned a first-place award in the “advanced obstacle course” competition. There were several individual awards for the Sheriff’s Office unit, including one first-place award in the “fleeing felons” category.

All Mounted Patrol members are required to complete training in first aid, formation riding, use of force, search & rescue, horsemanship, horse first aid, and radio communications, among other topics. For people interested in joining the Mounted Patrol, please contact Sgt. Jennifer Johnson 612-596-9818 or [Jennifer.E.Johnson@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.E.Johnson@co.hennepin.mn.us)

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