



2025

# Annual Report

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office



## MESSAGE FROM

# Sheriff Witt

Over the past year, our county has faced unprecedented public safety challenges. From the targeting of elected officials and the tragic assassination of Speaker Hortman and her husband to the horrific murder of two young students at the Annunciation Catholic School, our communities have endured profound loss and sorrow. Yet even in the face of heartbreak, the resilience and strength of our residents have continued to shine through.

Throughout these difficult times, the Sheriff's Office has remained steadfast in our commitment to reducing violent crime, combating the opioid crisis, and addressing carjackings and auto thefts — all while strengthening our communities through meaningful partnerships and an unwavering dedication to transparency. I am incredibly proud of the fortitude, professionalism, and dedication demonstrated every day by the members of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office in service to our community.

In 2025, we proudly opened our new Public Safety Services Headquarters in Plymouth, enhancing our ability to provide proactive enforcement and comprehensive public safety services across Hennepin County. This state-of-the-art facility replaces an aging building that could no longer adequately support the growing and evolving needs of our office, positioning us to better serve our residents now and into the future.

As you review this report, you will also learn about our goals for 2026. These priorities include expanding resources and support services for individuals in our custody, increasing advanced training opportunities for our dedicated team members, and strengthening recruitment and retention efforts to ensure we continue to attract and develop top-tier professionals.

As we move forward together, I encourage you to remain engaged in our community initiatives. Your involvement is vital to our shared success and plays a meaningful role in preserving the safety and well-being of our county.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. I welcome your insights and suggestions as we continue working to serve our community with integrity, accountability, and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Witt".



## MISSION & VALUES

### MISSION:

“Provide quality professional services while building meaningful relationships that are sustainable within our communities, and with our partners, to ensure justice and safety for all.”

### VALUES:

Service,  
Accountability,  
Culture,  
Responsiveness,  
Ethics,  
Dedication

## FOUR-YEAR FOCUS PRIORITIES

- Building safer communities through reduction of violent crime.
- Opioid overdose prevention and awareness with a focus on fentanyl.
- Recruitment and retention of all our exceptional employees who are dedicated to public safety.
- Reform through innovative programming for those in our custody.
- Community engagement and education to strengthen relationships with all whom we serve.
- Criminal justice reform by emphasizing rehabilitation in addition to accountability.



# Leadership

## Dawanna S. Witt

**Dawanna S. Witt was sworn in as the 29th Hennepin County Sheriff on January 3, 2023. She is the first woman and person of color to hold the office.**

Sheriff Witt has been in law enforcement for more than two decades. She holds undergraduate degrees in Chemical Dependency & Family Therapy and Police Science, and dual master's degrees in Public Safety Administration and Management. In her first two years, she created a new Auto Theft Unit to combat historic high numbers, reinstated the D.A.R.E program to build relationships with the community at a young age, prioritized providing Narcan® trainings to fight the growing opioid crisis, launched a jail data dashboard for transparency inside the Adult Detention Center, and she continues to advocate for law enforcement and public safety with county officials to best meet the needs of the community.

Sheriff Witt is also an adjunct professor at Inver Hills Community College, teaching Juvenile Justice and American Corrections.

# Command Staff



**Chief Deputy Pat Enderlein**



**Major Matt Hollihan**  
Administrative Services Bureau



**Major Mike Jerde**  
Public Safety Services Bureau



**Major Dan Kurtz**  
Court and Field Services Bureau



**Major Shane Magnuson**  
Investigations Bureau



**Major Rick Palaia (Retired)**  
Investigations Bureau



**Major Kristen Tomlinson**  
Public Affairs Bureau



**Major Troy Otto**  
Detention Services Bureau



**Tim Stout**  
Chief of Staff

# Our 2025 Accomplishments



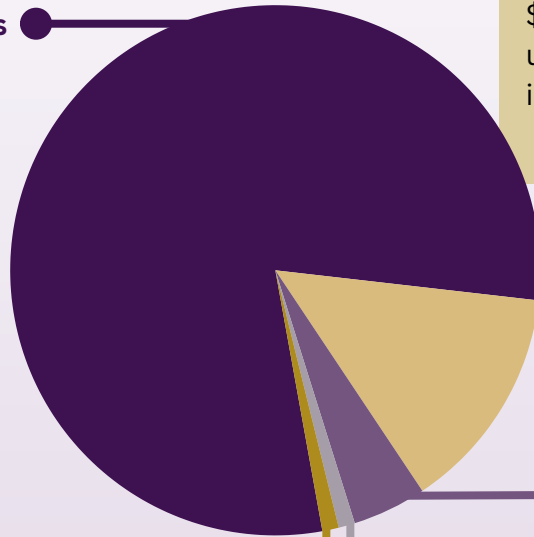
- Relocated to a **new state-of-the-art Public Safety Services headquarters** to serve the county with adequate space to house emergency vehicles, public safety equipment, classroom training facilities, and a Mutual Aid Command Center.
- Increased safety for detainees in the jail by **implementing real-time Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) activity logging** for health and welfare checks.
- Added a **second K-9 team** for narcotics detection in the jail.
- Updated **weather and civil defense processes and systems** for faster and more accurate notification to the public in the event of an emergency.
- Greatly reduced response times to alarm calls by transitioning to a **digital alarm notification service** between home alarms and emergency communication centers with an integration to alarm companies.
- Built lasting partnerships through community outreach by attending **over 1,000 community events**, including opioid awareness and drug takeback days, lifejacket giveaways, D.A.R.E. classroom instruction, and bike safety classes.
- Partnered with numerous military veteran organizations, local colleges and universities, and developed Pathways to Policing opportunities to help reach our recruitment goals which resulted in a **record high 173 new employees hired** throughout the agency.
- Provided analytical and investigative case support through our Criminal Intelligence Division to multiple metro agencies related to the rise in carjackings and auto theft including auto theft analysts to **identify real-time trends and deploy resources and aid in the quick identification of suspects**, many involving repeat juvenile offenders.
- Partnered with the University of Minnesota to develop and deliver an **in-service training for detention staff focused on the science of addiction and evidence-based treatment**. This collaboration strengthened staff understanding, supported safer jail operations, and reinforced our commitment to integrating public health expertise into detention practice.
- Conducted **comprehensive security assessments and residential vulnerability evaluations** for judiciary and other local officials through our highly trained Threat Assessment Group.



## Finance Division

The Finance Division provides fiscal analysis for the agency, processes payroll, coordinates agency agreements, developed the five-year capital improvement plan and set the operating budget of \$169.6 million for 2025. The Finance Division acts as good stewards of taxpayer dollars by implementing cost saving measures, providing financial management and accounting for federal and state grants, developing efficiencies in operations, and enhancing partnerships in public safety services and the community. In 2025, the Hennepin County Board adopted the 2026 operating budget of \$182.5 million, as well as HCSO's 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program. This includes \$5.5 million for City Hall Jail finish and furniture upgrades, \$6 million to replace aging equipment in the county jail, and more.

**Personnel Services**  
\$134,963,601 (79.5%)



**Contractual Services**  
\$23,416,427 (13.8%)

**Commodities**  
\$7,586,537 (4.5%)

**Other Charges**  
\$2,226,017 (1.3%)

**Capital Outlay**  
\$1,382,807 (0.8%)

# BUDGET AND STAFFING 2025

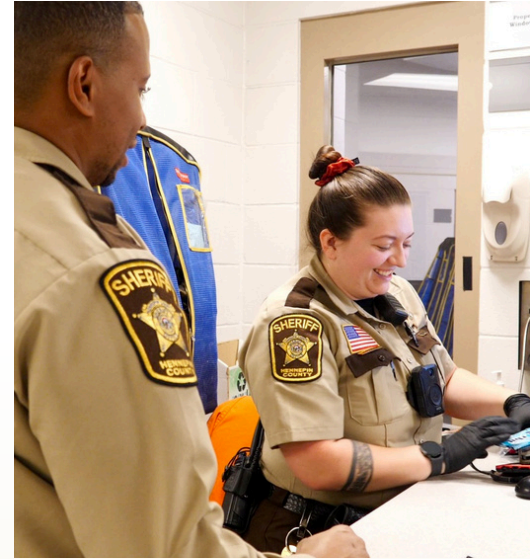
**Agency Budget: \$169.6 Million**

HCSO STAFF	APPROVED POSITIONS	ACTUAL (YEAR END)	UNDER/OVER
Licensed Peace Officers	363	341	-22
Detention Deputies	227	274	47
Professional Staff	293	299	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>31</b>

# Our 2025 Goals



- 1 Continue to work with our public safety partners to reduce violent crime through proactive and data-informed efforts, an essential approach that supports the identification and apprehension of the most prolific and violent offenders in our communities.
- 2 Advocate at the county, state and federal levels for necessary funding for the Sheriff's Forensic Science Laboratory, an internationally accredited facility that provides thorough, accurate, and unbiased forensic services to support public safety in Hennepin County and the region.
- 3 Expand upon the current array of effective jail programming that supports successful reentry– including educational opportunities, vocational training, substance use and addiction treatment, life-skills development, and medical and behavioral health services – to ensure that jail time is not wasted time.
- 4 Continue to demonstrate full transparency through clear, direct and effective communication with the public by utilizing leading technology and accessible online and social-media platforms.
- 5 Continue our Focus on Fentanyl initiative and opioid awareness campaign to educate all residents about the dangers of lethal illicit drugs trafficked throughout the county and remain a committed partner with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Investigative Support Center to combat the devastating impact of these illegal narcotics.



- 6 Collaborate with Hennepin County administration to implement recent staffing study recommendations that support adequate staffing levels for the safe management of our jail, continue recruiting highly qualified new employees, and offer competitive wages and career opportunities to retain our exceptional staff.
- 7 Utilize best practices in public safety technologies across all divisions – such as body-worn and squad cameras, records management systems, jail body scanners, and intelligence gathering tools that support investigations, while ensuring staff receive continuous training on emerging technologies, including systems designed to counter criminal activity involving cryptocurrency.
- 8 Actively pursue state and federal grant opportunities to mitigate rising budget pressures, including applying for the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver to broaden coverage for our jail population, improved continuity of care, and reduce the tax burden on county residents.
- 9 Integrate innovative and immersive training technology such as Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven scenario-based tools for employee training.
- 10 Seek external perspectives, feedback and expertise from community members through ongoing engagement with our Community Engagement Team and through regular meetings of the Sheriff's Community Advisory Board, Youth Community Advisory Board, the SHIELD Program, and the Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation.
- 11 Implement medically monitored wristbands designed to provide staff in the jail with continuous visibility into early signs of medical distress for detainees in our custody.



More than two dozen HCSO deputies provided security at our nation's capital for the presidential inauguration. They joined over 200 officers from Minnesota who were invited by the D.C. Metropolitan Police, along with many more from across the country, to help keep the event safe and secure. This was the sixth consecutive inauguration our deputies have participated in.



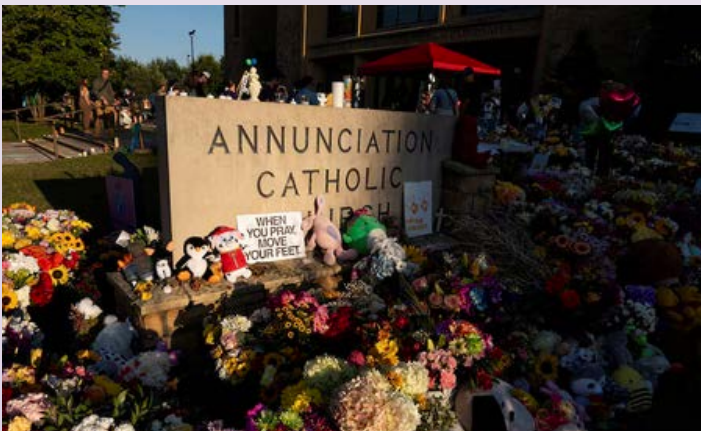
We officially opened the doors to our new Public Safety Services Headquarters in Plymouth after 30 years in Brooklyn Park! This modern space sets the stage for stronger public safety across Hennepin County.



We were established in 1852 and have proudly served our community for generations. Following Minnesota's updated state flag and seal adopted in 2024, we introduced a fresh design that reflects progress, unity, and pride. This isn't just a flag; it is a symbol of our history and the bright future ahead.



Sheriff Witt joined federal, state and local law enforcement partners and the U.S. Attorney's Office to announce the indictment of Vance Boelter, the man charged with the murder of House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark and the attempted murder of Sen. John Hoffman and his wife Yvette. HCSO played a critical role in the suspect's arrest and subsequent charges.



In the wake of the tragic Annunciation Catholic School shooting, our community showed what true unity looks like. Sheriff Witt stood alongside law enforcement leaders, elected officials, and neighbors, delivering a message of hope and healing.



HCSO unveiled a beautiful K9 Memorial at the Public Safety Services Headquarters representing a lasting tribute to the loyalty, courage, and service of our K9 teams. Since the program began in the early 1980s, 46 teams have served, with 34 retired teams honored on this monument. From search and rescue to narcotics detection and explosive ordnance detection to suspect apprehension, these incredible dogs and their handlers have been vital to keeping our community safe.

# Public Safety Services Bureau



## Enforcement Services Division

The Enforcement Services Division (ESD) includes several specialized units and functions: Patrol, Water Patrol, Warrants, K9, Special Operations, School Resource Officer, Hospital Safety Enforcement Unit and Volunteer Services.

### Patrol Unit

The Patrol Unit provides emergency response, patrol service, DWI enforcement, warrant services, and response to in-progress crimes. In 2025, in addition to overall county patrols, the patrol unit provided contracted services to the cities of Golden Valley, Greenfield, Hanover, Medicine Lake, and Rockford as well as the unincorporated area of Fort Snelling.

The Patrol Unit has one School Resource Officer assigned to the Rockford Elementary and Senior High Schools. The Patrol Unit had four deputies recognized for their unwavering dedication to DWI arrests from the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety and Mothers Against Drunk Driving with a combined 139 arrests in 2025.

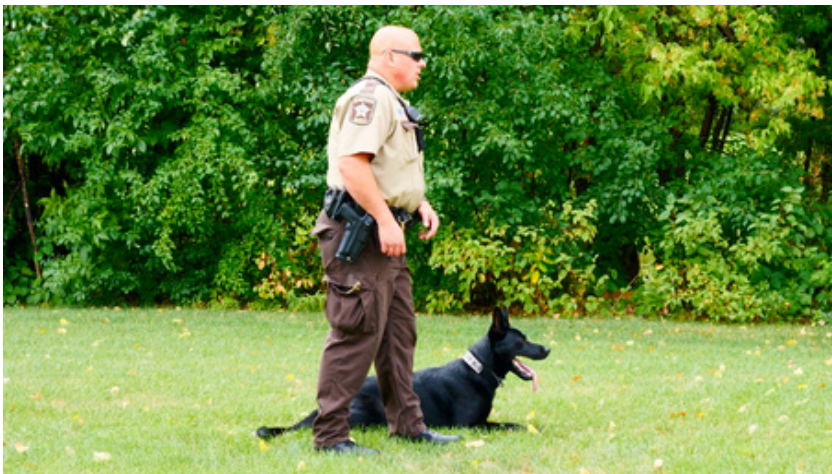




## Water Patrol Unit

The Water Patrol Unit patrols Hennepin County’s bodies of water and assists in the search and recovery operations throughout the county and beyond. The unit also coordinates the highly trained Sonar and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) operators as well as the divers that make up the Under Water Recovery Team.

In 2025, the Water Patrol Unit continued safeguarding Hennepin County’s lakes and rivers while expanding its specialized recovery capabilities. The unit not only enforced boating safety and aquatic invasive species laws but also lead critical search and recovery missions. Equipped with advanced sonar technology, ROVs, and a highly trained dive team, the unit played a vital role in underwater investigations and emergency response. Its mission emphasizes rapid deployment, precision in locating submerged evidence or victims, and collaboration with other agencies to ensure public safety on and beneath the water.



## K9 Unit

In 2025, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office K9 Unit enhanced public safety through expert tracking, narcotics detection, and explosive sweeps, while adding new teams to boost operational capacity. Beyond enforcement, the unit deepened community connections with outreach events and demonstrations, reinforcing its commitment to safety and partnership. Three new K9 teams were added bringing the total number of K9s to eleven.

## 2025 STATISTICS

### PATROL

#### Contracted Patrol Hours:

Golden Valley	2,748
Greenfield	4,592
Hanover	1,360
Medicine Lake	355
Rockford	738

#### Patrol Statistics:

Arrests	1,585
Citations	1,796
DWI Arrests	199
Narcotics Recovered (cases)	113
Guns Recovered	97
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	185

#### HSEU Statistics:

Arrests	384
Citations	182
DWI Arrests	11

### WATER PATROL

Citations Issued	467
BWI or DWI Arrests	22
Arrests	34
Search and Recovery Hours	819
Drownings	11
Near Drownings	11

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Special Deputy Hours	9,363.5
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## Special Operations Unit

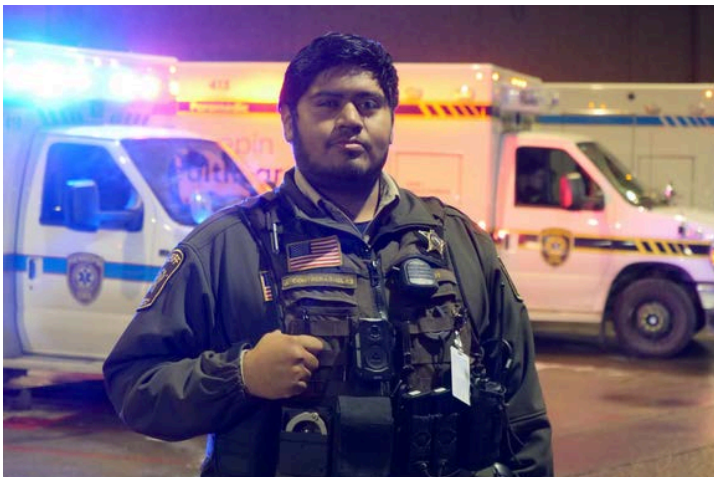
The Special Operations Unit (SOU) coordinates preparation and response to sudden events requiring large-scale law enforcement response. These include active shooters, emergencies, hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, natural disasters, and other large public events.

In 2025, SOU assisted in securing 86 events at Target Field for the Minnesota Twins and concerts and 35 events at the U.S. Bank Stadium for the Minnesota Vikings and a number of concerts. We also have a specialized team that is trained and equipped to respond to events involving weapons of mass destruction and hazardous materials. Through advanced training and strategic coordination, SOU ensured swift, effective responses to high-risk events, safeguarding public safety across Hennepin County.



## Hospital Safety Enforcement Unit

The Hospital Safety Enforcement Unit (HSEU) provides security and law enforcement services in and around Hennepin Healthcare (HCMC) and supports HCSO Patrol deputies and other agencies in responding to crime occurring near the HCMC campus in Minneapolis.



## Special Deputy Unit

Special deputies are volunteers who receive special training in various public safety duties, including:

- Community events
- Emergency callouts
- Horseback mounted patrol
- Mobile Amateur Radio Corps operators
- Patrol support operations (motorist assists and medical emergencies)
- Search and rescue
- Traffic and crowd control
- Underwater Recovery and Sonar/ROV Teams
- Water patrol operations on county lakes and rivers

# 911 Dispatch Division

The 911 Dispatch Division is the “first of the first responders,” answering emergency calls and directing the appropriate law enforcement, fire, and medical units to those in need. They also work with embedded social workers who assist deputies responding to mental health calls.

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In 2025, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office 911 Dispatch Division continued serving as the county’s critical first point of contact, fielding thousands of calls and ensuring rapid, accurate coordination of emergency responders. Through advanced technology and highly skilled dispatchers, the division delivered timely assistance and strengthened its essential role in safeguarding lives across Hennepin County.



## Communications Technology Unit

The Emergency Communications Technology Unit supports the county’s 911 and public safety operations by maintaining the technology that keeps police, fire, EMS, and public-works agencies connected.

The team services and manages critical systems such as 18 radio tower sites, responder laptops, and approximately 9,000 thousand two-way radios used across the county.

## 2025 STATISTICS

### 911 DISPATCH DIVISION

Phone Transactions	663,249
911 Calls	257,356
Computer-Aided Dispatch Events	789,143

### Dispatch Services Provided for:

Communities	39
Law Enforcement Agencies	25
Fire Departments	24
EMS Providers	4

### AGENCIES AND EQUIPMENT SUPPORTED

Police Departments	34
Fire Departments	25
Public Works	34
Hospitals	10
Dispatch Centers	4
School Districts	2
Hennepin County Departments	10
Radios Maintained	8,988
Mobile Data Computers	805
Communication Tower Sites	18



# Investigations Bureau

## Criminal Intelligence Division

The Criminal Intelligence Division (CID) assists in the prevention and suppression of criminal activity by providing timely and accurate analyses of criminal information to law enforcement. The division analyzes information to identify crime patterns, forecast criminal trends, generate investigative leads, assist with identification and apprehension of suspects involved in criminal activity, provide timely information sharing on threats to our communities or officer safety and more.

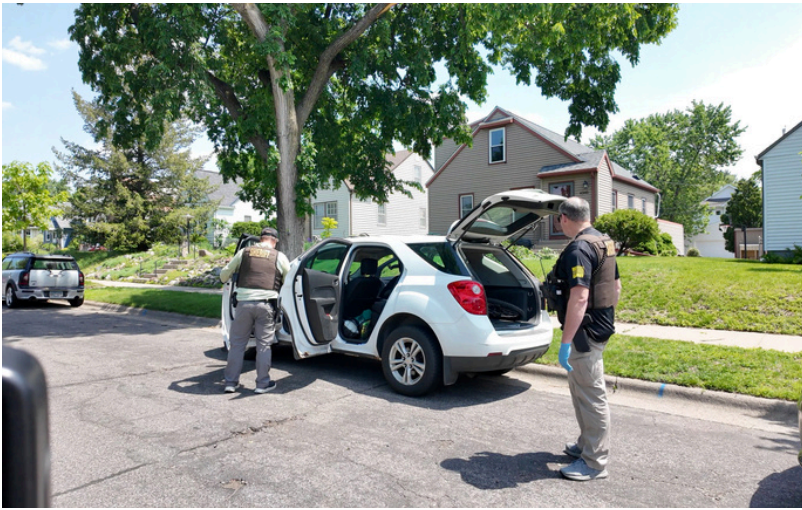
The CID oversees the HCSO Shield Program, which is part of the Global Shield Network (GSN). The GSN and HCSO Shield leverage partnerships between law enforcement and private sector security for information sharing, suspicious activity reporting and crime prevention, while also respecting and protecting the privacy rights of county residents. In 2025, CID completed 13,196 requests for information and analytical support for law enforcement agencies in Hennepin County, greater Minnesota and beyond.



## Major Crimes Division

In 2025, the Major Crimes Division advanced its fight against serious criminal activity through specialized units: Detectives, Violent Offender Task Force (VOTF), West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF), and the Special Assignments Unit (SAU). These teams targeted violent offenders, dismantled drug networks, and investigated auto theft, human trafficking, and financial crimes. With strategic operations and collaborative enforcement, the division delivered decisive action against major threats to public safety across Hennepin County.

## Detective Units and Task Forces

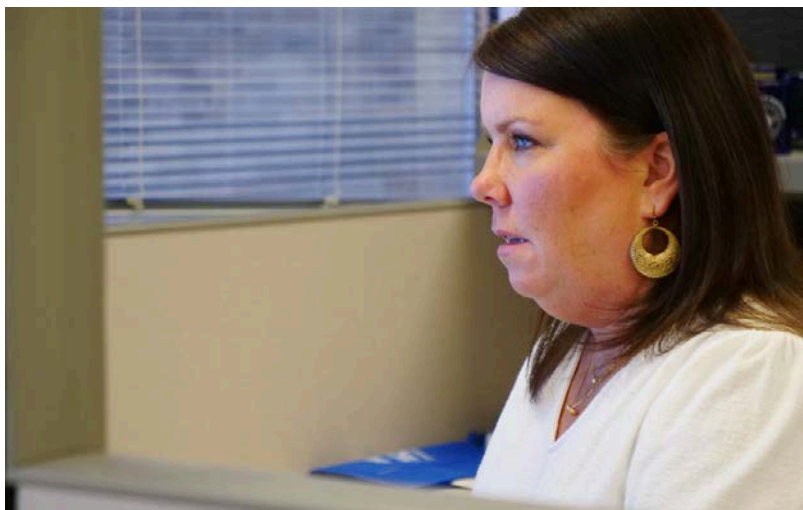


The **General Investigative Unit** investigates crimes across all county facilities, on waterways, those generated by our patrol division, and follow up for the county attorney.

The **West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF)** is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement partnership led by HCSO and includes detectives from eleven Hennepin County Police Departments. The WMDTF focuses on large sale narcotics distributors, along with responding to the needs of the local community in their partner jurisdictions.

The **Violent Offender Task Force (VOTF)** is also a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement partnership led by HCSO and includes detectives from seven law enforcement agencies. VOTF focuses on apprehending the most violent suspects throughout Hennepin County.

The **Special Assignments Unit (SAU)** conducts investigations involving auto thefts, human trafficking, and complex financial crimes.



## 2025 STATISTICS

### GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Felony Charges	230
Cases Opened	2,750

### WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE

Illegal Firearms Confiscated	61
Arrests	175
Drugs Seized:	
• Powdered Fentanyl	8,400 grams
• Fentanyl Pills	1,624
• Methamphetamine	93,209 grams
• Cocaine	11,312 grams

### VIOLENT OFFENDER TASK FORCE

Illegal Firearms Confiscated	391
Arrests	505
State Charges	215
Federal Charges	4
Search Warrants	99
Drugs Seized:	
• Powdered Fentanyl	3,529 grams
• Fentanyl Pills	415.5
• Methamphetamine	3,327 grams
• Cocaine	4,784 grams

### SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS UNIT

Human Trafficking Victims Recovered	27
Vehicles Recovered	416
Value of Vehicles	\$5,923,243
Felony Arrests	114
Guns Recovered	12

# Forensic Science Laboratory



The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) provides forensic science services and crime scene investigation to all Hennepin County suburban law enforcement agencies, the Minnesota State Patrol, several federal law enforcement agencies and on occasion to the Minneapolis Police Department. The laboratory is an ANAB ISO/IEC 17025 accredited forensic testing laboratory.

In 2025, the FSL upheld its ANAB ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and continued delivering quality forensic testing services to local, state, and federal agencies. The laboratory implemented new technologies and test methods to improve effectiveness, quality, and efficiency, thus reinforcing its commitment to public safety and the integrity of the criminal justice system.

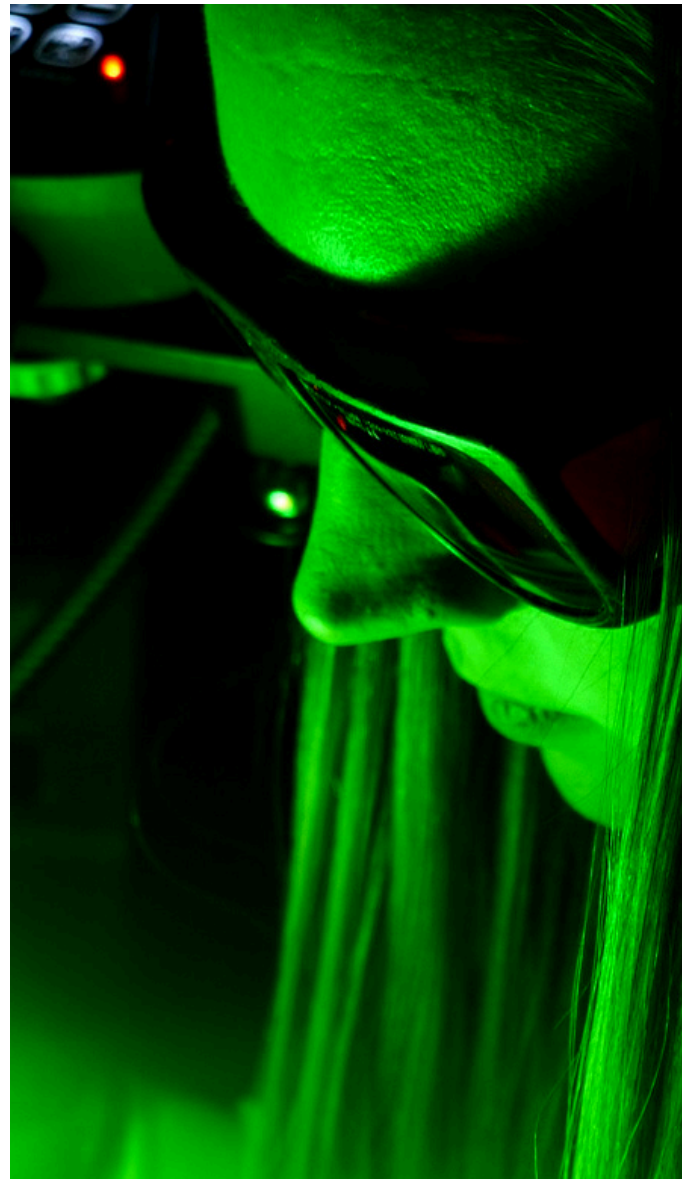
The laboratory remains dedicated to assisting the Hennepin County criminal justice community in enhancing public safety through the provision of thorough, accurate and unbiased forensic services to our customers.

Also in 2025, the Forensic Science Laboratory staff received the National Association of Counties (NACo) Integrity Award for their diligent work in the discovery and reporting of contamination found in DNA testing products. This discovery affected laboratories worldwide bringing international attention.

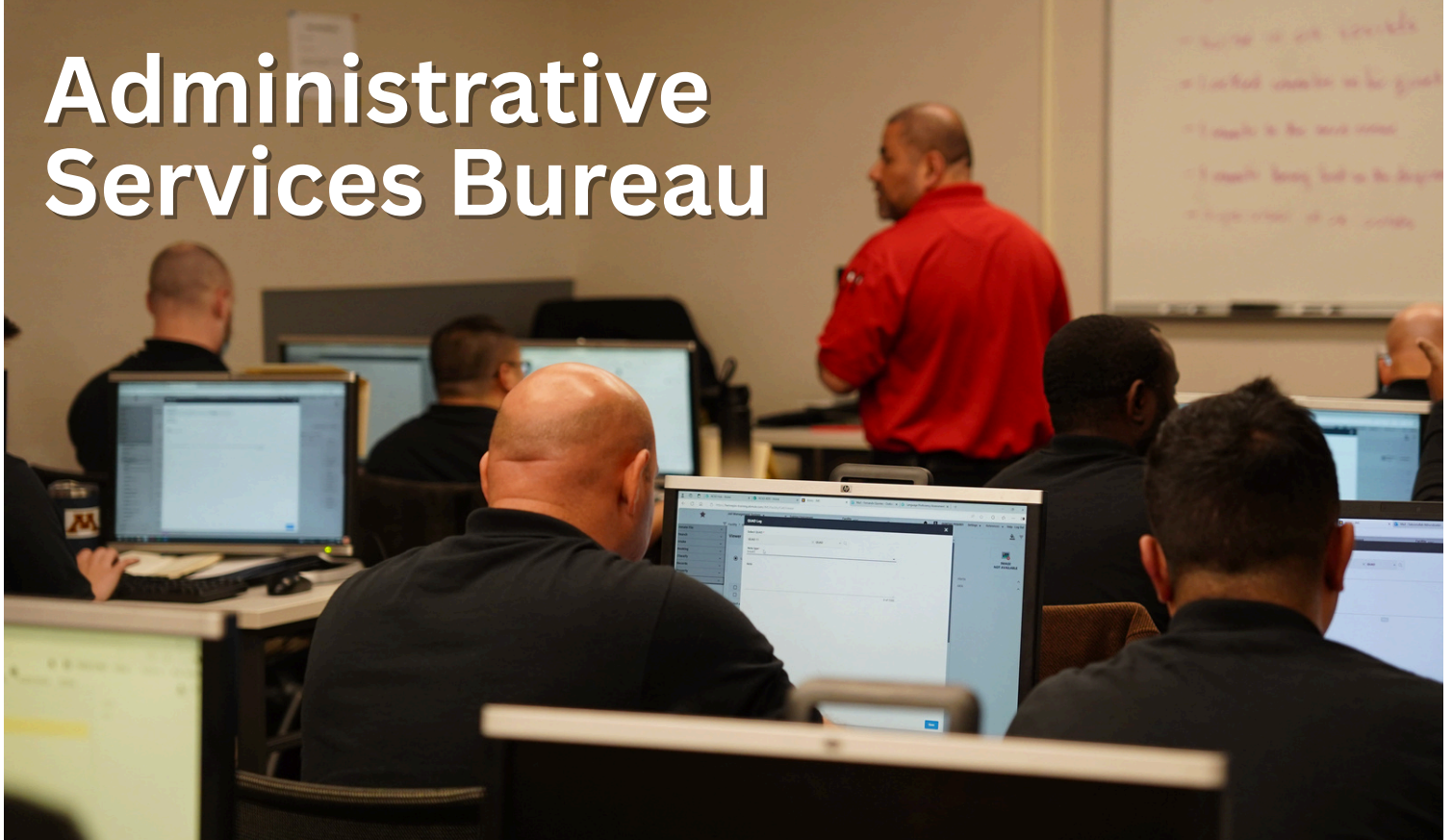
## 2025 STATISTICS

### FORENSIC SCIENCE LAB

Requests for Laboratory Services	3,504
Latent Print Requests Completed	840
DNA Requests Completed	1,563
Crime Scene Responses	1,194
CSI Digital Images Captured	154,846
Multidiscipline Evidence Processing Requests Completed	325
Items of Evidence Received	8,522
Firearm Section Requests Completed	332



# Administrative Services Bureau



## Professional Standards Division

Under the Administrative Services Bureau is our Professional Standards Division (PSD). This consists of the Personnel Unit, Employee Development Unit, and Internal Affairs Unit. This bureau is charged with hiring and training staff, and internal investigations. PSD upholds the foundation of excellence within HCSO by ensuring we hire exceptional talent, provide rigorous and consistent training, and support the long-term growth and retention of our employees. Through high professional standards and continuous improvement, PSD strengthens the quality, integrity, and readiness of our workforce.

### Personnel Unit

The Personnel Unit is responsible for the onboarding, background investigations, performance, leave management, and serve as the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and Hennepin County Human Resources.

In 2025, background investigators conducted 322 investigations on perspective employees and more than 600 background checks on contract workers.





## Employee Development Unit

In 2025, the Employee Development Unit (EDU) delivered comprehensive, cutting-edge training programs to ensure staff readiness for evolving public safety challenges. From advanced tactical instruction to leadership development and specialized certifications, EDU focused on equipping personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively and maintain the highest standards of service across Hennepin County.

Last year, EDU implemented Virtual Reality Taser Training, enhancing scenario-based learning and safety. We also upgraded Taser 7 and agency Body-Worn Cameras to the newest versions to improve quality and functionality of these technologies.

## Internal Affairs Unit

The Internal Affairs Unit conducts thorough, impartial investigations into allegations of employee misconduct within the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. The unit ensures a fair process for community members to voice concerns and plays a key role in maintaining transparency, accountability, and public trust.

## 2025 STATISTICS

### EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Total Training Hours Provided	86,034
Deputy Academies	4
Detention Deputy Academies	7

### PERSONNEL UNIT

Interviews Conducted	371
Background Investigations	322
Background Checks	613
Detention Deputies Hired	99
Licensed Deputies Hired	19
Other Employees Hired	74



# Detention Services Bureau

## Adult Detention Division

In 2025, the Adult Detention Division (ADD) continued to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to safety, professionalism, and rehabilitation while operating Minnesota's largest and most complex jail facility. The ADD maintained its prestigious American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation—an achievement earned by only about five percent of jails nationwide—reflecting our dedication to best practices and continuous improvement. This year also marked the addition of a second K-9 assigned to the jail and the implementation of Guardian RFID technology, both enhancing facility security, staff efficiency, and accountability.

The ADD also provides comprehensive Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) services to individuals struggling with addiction. In 2025, we expanded access to evidence-based treatment, including assessments, medication management, and continuity of care during reentry. By intergrating MOUD into our broader health and rehabilitation model, we promote safer outcomes, reduce withdrawal-related risks, and support long-term recovery.

Together, these advancements reaffirmed ADD's role as a cornerstone of public safety in Hennepin County, balancing secure operations with a forward-looking approach that prioritizes dignity, accountability, and community well-being.





## Investing in Rehabilitation and Reentry

Beyond daily operations, the ADD strengthened its leadership role in public safety by expanding innovative programs that support rehabilitation, personal growth, and successful reentry. The HOPE Program continued to reduce generational incarceration by helping individuals earn diplomas, complete GEDs, and build reentry skills. The HOPE Hub further extended this support by connecting individuals in or leaving custody with a one-stop-shop of resources for job training, education, and other critical needs. Complemented by volunteer-led programs focused on parenting, family support, religious services, and substance abuse management, these efforts reinforce our commitment to rehabilitation and long-term success.



## Central Records

The Central Records Unit continued its commitment to innovation over the past year, focusing on strengthening efficiency, enhancing communication, and improving data security practices across the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. Progress included refining procedural workflows and integrating new technology to support more streamlined and secure operations. The unit is also pursuing a significant upgrade to the HCSO Records Management System, which will provide enhanced features to improve how warrants are processed and increase overall efficiency for warrants staff. In addition, Central Records partnered closely with multiple justice-system stakeholders to develop and launch the new Electronic Judicial Review application. This collaborative initiative united judicial staff, county attorneys, city prosecutors, and other criminal justice partners throughout Hennepin County, creating a more efficient and coordinated review process.

## 2025 STATISTICS

### ADULT DETENTION DIVISION

2025 Bookings	27,018
Average Bookings Per Day	74
Jail Volunteer Hours	1,727
Detainee Meals Served	792,304
Average Morning Inmate Count	808
Average Length of Stay Days	10.88
Warrants Entered	35,273
Warrants Satisfied	35,430
Inmates Reviewed in Judicial Review	4,651
Court Fingerprinting	1,076
Public Fingerprinting	1,807

# Court and Field Services Bureau



## Court and Field Services Division

### Court Services Unit

The Court Services Unit provides law enforcement services to the Fourth Judicial District Court to ensure that the judicial system operates in a safe and orderly manner. We provide security for judges, juries, witnesses, personnel and all visitors in approximately 96 courtrooms across multiple facilities. We address security concerns with judges and court personnel, conduct patrols and security checks in the courthouses and assist with screening for weapons.



### 2025 STATISTICS

#### COURT SERVICES

Court Escorts	33,542
Juvenile Court Escorts	1,347
Mental Health Court Escorts	1,682
Arrests	1,212



## Civil Unit

The Sheriff's Civil Unit represents both the executive and judicial branches of government and is responsible for the service of process and post-judgment execution procedures. The Civil Unit received over 20,000 civil processes in 2025. The most common are domestic abuse orders for protection and harassment restraining orders, summons and complaints (the start of a lawsuit), writs of recovery (for eviction), and juvenile summons. Deputies also handle writs of execution, subpoenas, summons, extreme risk protection orders, foreclosure sales, and more, totaling over 30 types of civil process.

## Transportation Unit

The Transport Unit is responsible for detainee transports, detainee extradition driving trips, mental health patient transports, apprehending mental health patients in the community who have violated mental health court orders, and service of mental health summonses to mental health patients in hospitals and in the community. The Transport Unit assists the Adult Detention Division with transports related to detainee annexing and the Civil Unit with service of process and evictions. The Transport Unit is also responsible for transports that involve the placement of juveniles to commitment and treatment facilities throughout the State of Minnesota.

## Gun Permit Unit

The Gun Permit Unit provides services to residents throughout Hennepin County and residents from other states who wish to obtain their permit to carry a firearm in the state of Minnesota. Applicants who have successfully completed the classroom and range requirements from an approved BCA certified instructed skilled class may apply for a permit to carry. In 2025 the Gun Permit Unit issued 9,020 gun permits.

## 2025 STATISTICS

### CIVIL UNIT

Papers Received	20,536
Papers Served	12,939
Service Attempts	21,692
Foreclosures	425

### TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Miles Driven	304,006
Detainees Transported	6,842
Summons Served	1,158
Extradition Trips	451

### GUN PERMIT UNIT

Application/Renewals Received	9,184
Permits Issued	9,020
Permits Denied	120



## COPA Division

The Community Outreach and Public Affairs (COPA) Division strengthens trust between the Sheriff's Office and Hennepin County's diverse communities through partnerships, education, and collaborative problem-solving. In 2025, COPA expanded youth engagement by co-hosting a free 3-day Youth Leadership Academy with agency partners. The division also improved internal efficiency by streamlining event/meeting tracking, while broadening staff experience by incorporating a detention deputy into community engagement work.

COPA's community impact continued to grow through key initiatives, including distributing 200 life jackets in partnership with National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and the Sheriff Foundation, logging over 173 D.A.R.E. classroom hours, and launching the Story Time with the Sheriff's Office reading program, which has reached 26 schools and childcare centers that included a community book-drive and continued partnership with Hennepin County Library. In 2025 COPA participated in more than 1,090 events and meetings, reflecting its strong commitment to public engagement and safety education.

## Data and Technology Division

The Data and Technology Division oversees research and implementation of all HCSO software and hardware projects. These projects include everything from equipping HCSO's physical locations with updated video conferencing equipment to evaluating new productivity software or systems for management of incident reports and videos. The Data and Technology Division also includes the Data Practice Unit. This division oversees and processes any requests for public data generated by HCSO. In 2025, the Data Practice Unit completed more than 3,700 data requests.



## Explorers

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Explorer Post #3744, sponsored by the Sheriff's Office and Scouting America and supported by the Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation, provides youth ages 14–20 with hands-on experience in law enforcement through training, mentorship, and community service. Explorers receive guidance from Sheriff's Office advisors and develop skills through scenario-based training and regional competitions in areas such as crime scene investigation, accident response, and crisis decision-making.

In 2025, the Explorer Post saw significant growth and achievement, expanding from an average of 16 participants to 35 after its fall recruitment session. Advisors collectively contributed over 1,000 hours, while Explorers logged more than 1,000 volunteer hours through meetings and events. The Post earned multiple honors, including Northern Star Council's Explorer Post of the Year, MLEEA Advisor of the Year for Sgt. Brian Owens, and Explorer of the Year awarded to Explorer K. Vang. At the Duluth Conference, Explorers earned top placements across several scenarios, including multiple 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in burglary, arrest and search, domestic crisis, first aid, job interview, and traffic crash events—reflecting a highly successful year of growth, training, and youth leadership development.



## Tri Wellness Unit

Tri Wellness is HCSO's internal wellness unit, which is focused on supporting employee wellness in mind, body, and spirit by providing wellness resources, improving relationships, and building resilience. Tri Wellness was founded on the idea that healthy public safety employees provide better services to their community. Tri Wellness improved its resources by adding eight contracted therapists to the team. These therapists provide 24/7 on-call crisis response and on-site therapy services for staff. The unit includes a staff clinician, eight contracted therapists, on-call chaplains and a Peer Support Team. The Tri Wellness unit leads the Sheriff's Military Activation and Reintegration Training (SMART) program. The SMART program works to support our military and veteran employees and their families during deployment and throughout their careers.

# Initiatives

## Focus on Fentanyl

While overdose deaths in Hennepin County have declined in the recent past, they remain significantly elevated compared to pre-fentanyl levels. Fentanyl continues to drive the majority of overdose fatalities and remains one of the leading causes of death nationally for individuals under age 50. These trends underscore the continued need for sustained prevention, treatment, and education efforts.

In 2025, HCSO expanded its Focus on Fentanyl initiative by producing a new educational video highlighting the impact of fentanyl and connecting residents to available resources.

To strengthen internal response, HCSO partnered with the University of Minnesota to advance a Science of Addiction for Law Enforcement collaboration. All detention deputies completed a comprehensive in-service training on addiction science, reinforcing a shared understanding of substance use disorder as a chronic, yet treatable, medical condition. The curriculum will now be incorporated into mandatory onboarding for newly hired detention deputies.

Within the Adult Detention Center, medical and behavioral health programming continues to evolve to ensure individuals in custody have access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder.

HCSO was also awarded a grant from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg American Health Initiative, in partnership with North Memorial, to host a national theatrical production called "Theater of War." This production was hosted by the Capri Theater and was an interactive production that focused on trauma, addiction, and public health. The event fostered dialogue among community members, healthcare providers, and first responders, strengthening cross-sector collaboration and reducing stigma.

Through these efforts, HCSO reaffirms its commitment to addressing the opioid crisis through partnership, education, and evidence-based strategies to save lives in our community.



## HOPE

HOPE stands for “Helping Others by Providing Education.” We believe the jail can be a place where positive change in a person’s life can start reform. The HOPE program gives inmates education and training while in jail. It also connects them to resources when they return to their community. We believe this will create a positive impact and help reduce repeat offenses. Inmates learn skills that create better opportunities when they return to their community. In May of 2025, country music star Jelly Roll visited with detainees before his concert and shared his story on how a program like HOPE saved his life.



## Pink Patch Project

Every October public safety agencies world-wide help bring awareness to breast cancer and breast cancer research through the sales of collectible uniform patches and the Pink Patch Project. Through this innovative public awareness campaign, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office partnered with Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation and raised money for cancer research and support for those undergoing breast cancer treatment. Donations in 2025 went to the Hope Chest for Breast Cancer Foundation.



## 30 X 30

The 30x30 Initiative is a national pledge to reach 30% women in law enforcement by 2030. We joined the initiative in 2024, reinforcing our commitment to advancing gender diversity in policing. Supported by the National Policing Institute, the initiative aims to modernize policing and improve public trust by increasing representation beyond the current 14% national average. Research shows that women officers use less excessive force, receive fewer complaints, and achieve better outcomes for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. More than 300 agencies across North America have signed the pledge. Year-end totals show we exceeded the national average with 16.8% of licensed/sworn staff are female at HCSO and women make up 30.3% of our overall staff.



# Community Programs



Book Drive



Night to Unite



Back to School Jamboree



Cold Weather Clothing Drive



Citizen Academy



Story Time with The Sheriff



MN State Fair



Polar Plunge



Shop With A Cop



Hennepin County Fair



HCSO Open House



Hooked on Fishing



Life Jacket Donations



## Join Our Team

### Jobs

We offer a variety of job assignments for peace officers and civilians. Our jobs have competitive salaries, excellent benefits, advancement opportunities and leadership development. We have over 800 employees who serve more than 1.2 million residents. Peace officer and civilian positions often include shift work, providing flexibility in work-life balance. For more information visit [hennepinsheriff.org/jobs/jobs-careers](https://hennepinsheriff.org/jobs/jobs-careers).

### Volunteer

Volunteers are a crucial part of our agency's ability to provide public safety services to the residents of Hennepin County. Become a Special Deputy or volunteer in the jail. More than 100 people from a variety of community groups volunteer at the Hennepin County Jail. Classes include Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), art, creative writing, resume and interviewing skills, domestic violence prevention, religious instruction and much more. For more information, visit [hennepinsheriff.org/community-engagement/volunteer](https://hennepinsheriff.org/community-engagement/volunteer).

### Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a diverse group of residents who provide community feedback and participation in the development of our practices and policies. The work of CAB members includes:

- Identifying and discussing community public safety issues
- Acting as policy advisors
- Providing feedback on Sheriff's Office initiatives
- Contributing to Sheriff's Office strategic planning
- Working as ambassadors in their communities to help educate others about the Sheriff's Office

### Youth Community Advisory Board

The Youth Community Advisory Board (YCAB), launched in 2023, is a volunteer group of high school students from across Hennepin County who meet quarterly to discuss public safety issues affecting young people. Members gain firsthand insight into HCSO operations by hearing from representatives across various units, volunteering at public safety events, and collaborating with the Sheriff's Office on effective communication with youth. Through these experiences, YCAB members deepen their understanding of community safety and contribute meaningful perspectives to help shape youth-focused initiatives.

# 2025 Promotions & Retirements

## Promotions

### MAJOR

Matthew Hollihan

### CAPTAIN

Shawn Gullickson  
Daniel Koski

### LIEUTENANT

Sarah Blonk Buck  
Adam Hernke  
Steven Lorentz  
Neil Lovejoy  
Douglas Nelson  
Aaron Nestrud

### DETENTION LIEUTENANT

Benjamin Ebbers

### SERGEANT

Megan Bean  
William Clemons  
Leondo Henry  
Alan Lange  
Bonnie Sarazin  
Shelby Stemig

### DETENTION SERGEANT

Jacquelyn General  
Andrew Ohlendorf  
James Umberhandt  
Xion Vue  
Andrew Walton

### TC SERGEANT

Gregory Fouks

### DETECTIVE

Benjamin Barben  
Kevin Carlson  
Nathan Hiemstra  
Matthew O'Brien  
Jesus Saenz  
Kendric Tjia

### CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR

Jason Trupe

### PRINCIPAL ADMIN ASSISTANT

Megan Larson

### SR. ADMIN ASSISTANT

Shelby Carr  
Mimee Xiong

### FORENSIC SCIENCE SUPERVISOR

Jennifer Kostroski

### LEAD FORENSIC TECHNICIAN

Christine Clouser  
Stephanie Eckerman  
Chelsea Foley  
Jennifer Kostroski  
Susanne Morehead  
Thomas Schneider  
Bradley Storms  
Diana Tabor

### RECORDS COORDINATOR

Austin Bennett

### EVIDENCE SPECIALIST

Greta Stanton



## Retirements

Rowland Ajaluwa  
Robert Beem  
Craig Canny  
Patrick Clark  
Jodi Custer  
Christopher Davis  
Gregory Granson  
Jeffrey Grates  
Diana Harken  
Jason Hughes  
Robert Hydukovich  
Joseph Jaruszewski

Blaine Johnson  
Jennifer Johnson  
Steven Labatt  
Keith McNamara  
Douglas Nordberg  
Richard Palaia  
Kristin Reynolds  
Owen Rice  
Matthew Rucker  
John Schafhauser  
Nate Wasgatt





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## HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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