

2024 accomplishments

- Combatted violent crime through partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement and our task forces, resulting in many federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) indictments.
- Provided analytical and investigative case support through our Criminal Intelligence Division to multiple metro agencies related to a large rise in carjackings, many involving juvenile suspects.
- Grew the HCSO Threat Assessment Group (TAG) and partnered with the FBI's Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management team.
- Added the first narcotics K-9 assigned to the jail in an effort to increase the safety of those in our custody and created a jail dashboard for more transparency.
- Focused on retention and recruitment successfully hiring 136 new employees in 2024, including 41 licensed deputies.
- Increased mental health and wellness services for employees adding a team of therapists who are available at no cost to employees.
- Served a record number of high-risk search warrants, that led to the safe arrest of dozens of violent crime suspects, resulting in recovery of dangerous narcotics and firearms.
- Attended over 600 events strengthening community relationships and building a new foundation with several organizations from diverse communities that reach youth, senior citizens, military members & veterans, and more.
- Worked with legislative leaders to amend the School Resource Officer statute to allow effective and safe partnerships between schools, students, and law enforcement.
- Bolstered our Focus on Fentanyl initiative by hiring a Sheriff's Office Opioid Response Coordinator, teaching hundreds of community members how to administer Narcan, and hosting several prescription drug take back events across the county.
- Restructured jail administration to meet the demands of the community by creating a new Detention Services Bureau focusing solely on the jail, and realigning the Court Services, Civil, Transport, Extraditions and Gun Permit Units to become the new Courts and Field Services Bureau.
- Implemented an Automated Abandoned Callback (AAC) system to ensure no 911 call goes unanswered.



Our mission

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

Our values

Service, Accountability, Culture, Responsiveness, Ethics, Dedication

Our mandate

Keep and preserve the peace of the county.



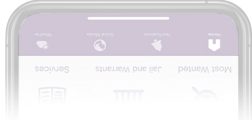
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis MN 55415
612-348-3744

HennepinSheriff.org



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Sheriff Dawanna Witt



2025

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan



Letter from the Sheriff

Over the past year, I've remained dedicated to reducing violent crime, combatting the opioid crisis, and making an impact on carjackings and auto thefts while working to strengthen our communities through relationship building and transparency.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on retaining and recruiting the right people who truly care about making a difference in our communities. We will nurture our community relationships by listening to your concerns because your voices matter, and we will improve transparency, build trust, and strive to ensure that everyone feels safe and heard.

Dawanna S. Witt
Hennepin County Sheriff

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.



Our 2025 goals

1. Focus on violent crime reduction by leveraging partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Use intelligence-led policing to address emerging public safety threats like human trafficking, narcotics, auto thefts, and financial crimes. Implement cutting-edge investigative strategies to apprehend the most violent offenders in Hennepin County.
2. Enhance transparency with the public through education and collaboration with external constituents via Sheriff's App, newsletters, social media, and news media.
3. Prioritize the safety and wellbeing of every person in our custody by adding a second narcotics K-9 to the jail, deploying heart rate monitors for at-risk inmates, and adding more tablets for educational programming.
4. Expand our joint training opportunities to ensure preparedness and interoperability with partners both internally and externally across public and private sectors. This will increase readiness to respond to emergency incidents and potential threats.
5. Focus on recruitment and retention by using innovative hiring methods, non-traditional pathways to employment, and advocating for employees at both county and state levels.
6. Work with community partners to develop and implement a comprehensive training program for Sheriff's Office deputies on addiction science to improve responses to opioid-related incidents in the jail and on the streets.
7. Implement a federal grant program to expand and enhance training related to responding to targeted violence and extremist threats.
8. Increase water patrol's capacity to educate and enforce users of Hennepin County's waterways related to the Aquatic Invasive Species Act to ensure safe and clean lakes and rivers.
9. Utilize the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Investigative Support Center to provide leading criminal investigative case support and analysis to further the mission to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations in 2025.
10. Complete a staffing study/assessment for the Emergency Communications Facility (ECF) to review data, historical growth, and future growth potential to ensure the ECF is positioned to best meet the needs of our community requesting emergency services.
11. Continue to leverage partnerships through the Sheriff's Community Advisory Board (CAB), Youth CAB, the SHIELD Program, and the Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation to bring better awareness of issues impacting the community to increase public safety.

