

# Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

## 2019 Accomplishments

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The residents elected David P. Hutchinson as the new sheriff of Hennepin County starting on January 7, 2019. The Sheriff immediately established a mission of serving and protecting all in our community by furthering equal justice, safety and wellness while promoting the values of ethics, equality, collaboration, well-being and innovation.

That mission statement and the values held by this office are evident in the hard work of all the employees of HCSO, making the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office a leader in the state and the nation.

By focusing on employee wellness, community outreach, and reducing violent crime we continue to strive to provide for the safety and well-being of every person in Hennepin County. Below are just a few highlights of the many accomplishments from the past year.

- Created Tri Wellness, an internal wellness unit focused on the mind, body, and spirit for HCSO Employees. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office was also the first agency in Minnesota to hire a full-time mental health clinical therapist. The unit also established a chaplaincy program to provide support to employees and the community.
- Created a peer-to-peer program as a resource for employees in times of personal or professional need, such as support following a critical incident or crisis situation.
- Expanded the use of medically assisted treatment in the jail for inmates experiencing opioid addiction, including implementing a Suboxone treatment program.
- Embedded a social worker at 911 Dispatch to improve response to behavioral health calls.
- Created the Water and Ice Safety Education (WISE) program to educate the public on how to be safe during all types of water recreation, including launching a low-cost swimming lessons program to bring water safety to underserved communities. Additionally, partnered with the National Park Service for tours of the Mississippi River for underprivileged youth.
- Expanded the K9 unit with the addition of four dual-purpose patrol/narcotics dogs, bringing the total to six K9 officers. The agency also received a generous donation to obtain a narcotics-detecting K9 that has been helpful not only to HCSO but other law enforcement agencies in the metro area.



## HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Based on increased threats, expanded our patrols and visits to area mosques and synagogues.
- Enforcement Services Division (ESD) provided a School Resource Officer with Rockford Public Schools. ESD also trained deputies to conduct commercial vehicle inspections to safeguard county roads and bridges.
- 911 Dispatch transitioned from a sworn officer to civilian leadership to give dispatchers more continuity in management.
- The Investigative Division joined a collaborative effort with Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park to help in the investigation of major crimes within these cities. HCSO also joined the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force to identify and apprehend individuals involved in human trafficking crimes.
- HCSO provided "Advancing Racial Equity Training" to approximately 850 employees.
- Focused on community outreach by developing Survival Though Overdose Prevention (S.T.O.P.) to combat the opioid epidemic. This program included multiple Drug Take Back Day events that collected hundreds of pounds of unwanted medication.
- Created a Community Advisory Board comprised of a diverse group of residents who provide community feedback and participation in the development of policies and practices.
- Worked with Hennepin County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to create a warrant-mapping program that has greatly improved officer safety and efficiency and access to warrant information.
- The Sheriff's Forensic Science Laboratory firearm section created efficiencies that resulted in a nearly 50% decrease in turnaround time for evidence to help prosecute violent crimes.
- The Special Operations Unit planned and coordinated public safety details related to hosting the NCAA Final Four and associated events.
- With the use of grant funding, installed ballistic barrier protection for deputies at all weapons screening locations in the county.
- The Sheriff's Office acquired a new National Integrated Ballistic Information System (NIBIN) from the ATF. The new 3D NIBIN system provides valuable information gleaned from firearm evidence that can be used by investigators to find potential links with other crimes scenes and thus increasing the ability to solve gun-related crimes.