



# Hennepin County Sheriff's Strategic Priorities 2023

Sheriff Dawanna Witt was elected on November 8, 2022, and took office on January 3, 2023 as the 29<sup>th</sup> Sheriff of Hennepin County. After meeting and listening to the concerns of the community, she developed a platform based on mutual interests that served as the inspiration for her 2023 strategic priorities. These priorities will center around building safer communities through violent crime reduction, opioid overdose prevention and awareness, reform through programming, public safety recruitment and retention, and community engagement and education. She will accomplish these through increased partnerships, collaborations, and initiatives while providing compassionate, respectful, and transparent public safety services to all citizens of Hennepin County.

## 2023 Strategic Priorities

- 1. Violent Crime Reduction** – leverage partnerships as a force multiplier and seek funding opportunities for personnel, technology and equipment that will increase the ability to intervene, interrupt and apprehend violent criminals and reduce the number of illegal guns and lethal drugs in our community.
- 2. Opioid Overdose Prevention and Awareness** – provide advocacy and a multi-pronged approach to address the destructive impact that the sharp increase of fentanyl trafficking is having on our county and state. This approach will include collaborations with numerous stakeholders to communicate overdose spike alerts and provide opioid education, Narcan training and distribution, and multiple options for safe medicine collection and disposal.
- 3. Reform Through Programming** – expand information and access to education, job opportunities, social services, and medical treatment to ensure inmates are immediately connected to the appropriate resources needed to positively impact their return to the community.
- 4. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention** – explore and implement new strategies to recruit and retain public safety employees, including legislative strategies and other funding mechanisms that focus on training and development, and retention and wellness initiatives to keep our trusted employees healthy and supported.
- 5. Community Engagement and Education** – strengthen community relationships by engaging all citizens and maximizing the input provided by the community to improve public safety services. Provide public safety education and programs that benefit everyone from our youth to our seniors. Improve communication and technology platforms to ensure easy access to public information and to highlight the important work performed by the agency.