

## 2023 accomplishments

- Created a comprehensive public safety strategy called Focus on Fentanyl to combat the lethal fentanyl epidemic
- Launched the HOPE HUB, a collaborative effort between the county and local nonprofits, which builds upon the HOPE Program to empower people with skills and resources towards self-improvement upon release from our custody
- In partnership with several local law enforcement agencies, opened the North Metro Regional Public Safety Training Facility to provide state-of-the-art training
- Successfully staffed 81 Twins games and the playoffs at Target Field, and 38 events at US Bank stadium, including all concerts and Minnesota Vikings games
- Created the first HCSO Youth Community Advisory Board with high school students from across the county who provide valuable input and perspectives on public safety
- Successfully passed legislation to create a position of Major to oversee Community Engagement and Public Affairs
- Attended over 500 community events and successfully established several youth engagement initiatives, including Law Enforcement Exploring, D.A.R.E. and various mentor programs
- Expanded collaborative efforts with businesses, places of worship, and schools related to threat assessments and public safety information sharing
- Established a Joint Enforcement Team to conduct directed patrols in high crime areas

## Our mission

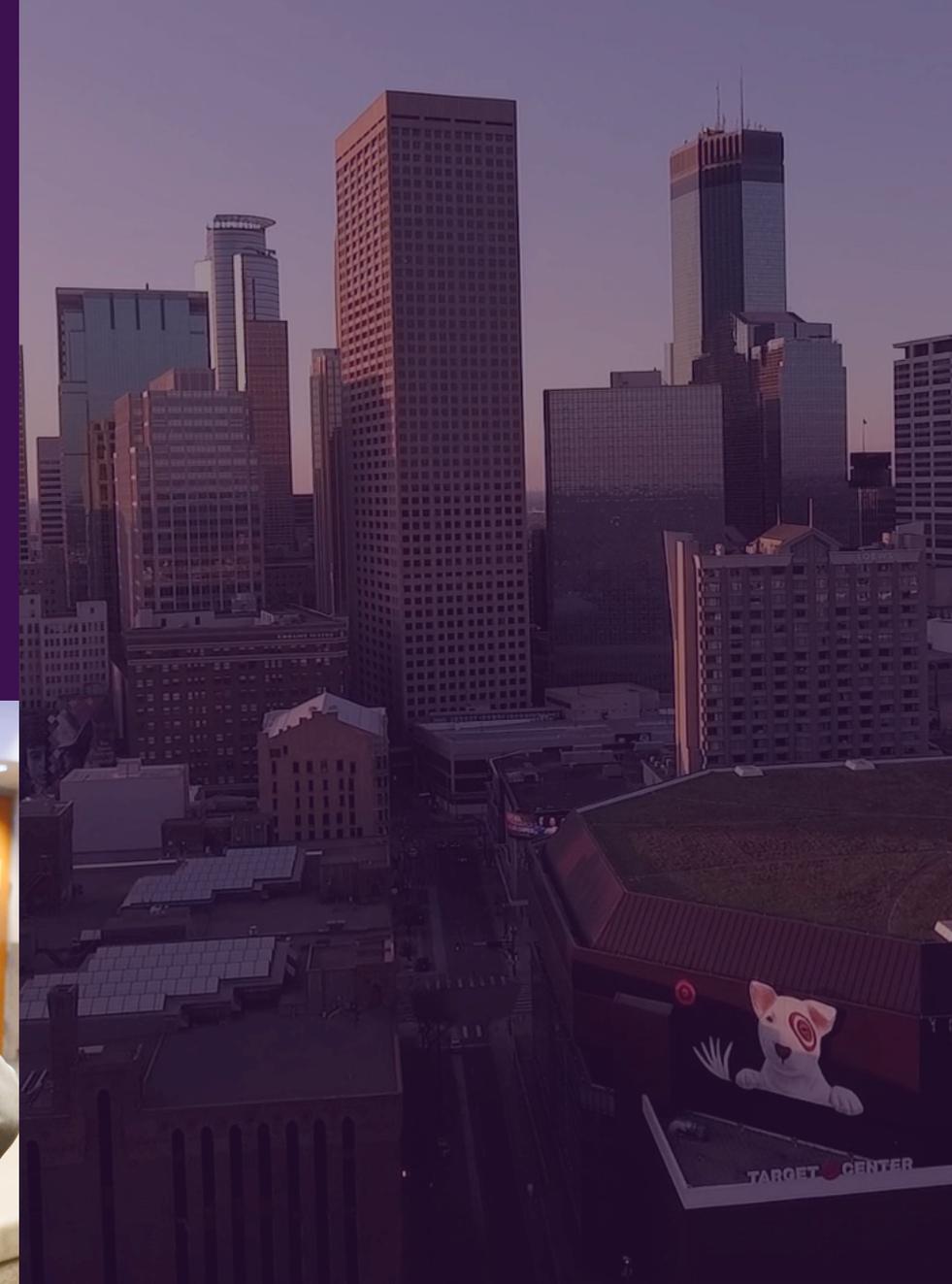
Providing quality professional services while building meaningful relationships that are sustainable within our communities, and with our partners, to ensure justice and safety for all.

## Our values

**S**ervice, **A**ccountability, **C**ulture, **R**esponsiveness, **E**thics, **D**edication

## Our mandate

Keep and preserve the peace of the county.



# Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan 2024



## Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

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[HennepinSheriff.org](https://HennepinSheriff.org)





## Letter from the Sheriff

Since I took office on January 3, 2023 as the 29th Sheriff of Hennepin County, I have focused on listening to the residents of Hennepin County. I have heard their concerns about building safer communities and increasing public safety.

We will accomplish these

goals by leading with humanity and building lasting and meaningful partnerships, collaborations, and initiatives while providing compassionate, respectful, and transparent public safety services to all those who live in, work in, or visit Hennepin County.

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 balancing rehabilitation and accountability



## Our 2024 goals

1. Continue our focus on violent crime reduction by leveraging our partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement using intelligence data and investigative knowledge to apprehend the most violent offenders in Hennepin County.
2. Implement an Auto Theft Unit in the Major Crimes Division that will have dedicated detectives and crime analysts to use intelligence-led policing and will partner with other law enforcement agencies to have a meaningful impact on carjackings and auto theft reduction.
3. Aggressively combat the opioid crisis through our task forces, investigators, analysts, and the support received from HCSO's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation. In addition, continue the Sheriff's Office Focus on Fentanyl public awareness campaign.
4. Work with our congressional delegation to receive federal funding for our nationally accredited Forensic Science Laboratory for equipment to solve gun crimes quickly and effectively.
5. Establish a K9 program in the jail to detect and deter opioids and other narcotics from entering the facility.
6. Work with county leaders to continue to support our employees through fair wages, to remain competitive in an ever-increasing demand for qualified personnel.
7. Proactively pursue grants and alternative funding sources to enhance services and support new initiatives that address our public safety goals. State and federal grant programs offer our agency the ability to innovate and pilot new projects in response to evolving public safety needs.
8. Increase and expand jail programming such as the HOPE Program, a successful jail program that provides education, workforce training, life skills, and connections to resources to help inmates, with the goal of reducing recidivism.
9. Adequately fund employee wellness programs and increase access to mental health and counseling services for our staff.
10. Work with legislative leaders to amend the School Resource Officer statute to allow effective and safe partnerships between schools, students, and law enforcement.
11. Increase directed patrol and interdiction efforts by leveraging the Criminal Intelligence Division's services to help identify areas of need.
12. Expand Explosive and Ordnance Detection K9 sweeps across the county to a broader range of threat areas to promote the safety of all community members.
13. Establish the first-ever HCSO satellite office to further engage the community while supporting our strategic priorities such as opioid overdose prevention and awareness, public safety education, and recruitment.

