



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Scott Smith** Chief Deputy

June 30, 2015

As we approach the end of my first 6 months as Sheriff, I thought I'd discuss the progress made at the Sheriff's Office, progress that has been a team effort.

A priority has been an effort to purchase tactical rifle vests for our deputies through donations. These vests will help to keep deputies safe and give them a better chance of returning home to their families at the end of each shift. I thank everyone who donated for their generosity in helping accomplish this goal. The vests are currently being distributed and are 100% paid for.

Next, we began the implementation of Project Lifesaver which will allow families to obtain tracking devices for loved ones who may have dementia or autism. Should these individuals wander, deputies now have equipment to locate them with greatly reduced resources and greater accuracy than what was previously available. This program is fully operational and is funded by charitable organizations.

Another priority for us has been improving community relations including the expansion in our use of Facebook. Supervisors and dispatchers have been authorized to post relevant information in regards to traffic crashes, road closures, press releases or other pertinent information that may be of interest to our community. This has increased the Facebook audience from around 1000 to over 3000 people. We also have created a Community Relations Team that is responsible for community presentations, safety programs and improving the relationship between the sheriff's office and our citizens.

The sheriff's office has made changes to increase traffic safety. We have implemented a traffic car in addition to our normal sector assignments. The traffic car responsibilities include increased patrol in areas of the county that are reported as needing extra enforcement to control speeding, stop sign violations or other dangerous traffic infractions. In addition we have increased patrols with the use of traffic safety grants emphasizing speed and seatbelt enforcement. We have also made arrangements to troubleshoot electrical problems of our radar trailer which has severely limited its use in recent years. The problems have been resolved and it is once again fully functional giving us the ability to use it as was originally intended.

The traffic car, increased patrols, a functional radar trailer along with other factors such as an increase in deputy pride, morale and productivity, has helped to keep our highways safe. I believe that these changes are contributing factors in limiting traffic fatalities this year in Dodge County.

We also added a countywide Child Abduction Response Team (CART) and we are now prepared should there ever be a child abduction in Dodge County. This team is well trained on how to best respond and deal with these time sensitive incidents. By being prepared we drastically increase our chances of recovering abducted children and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Finally we have made some reassignments to increase efficiency. K9 Paige was reassigned to a new handler as having her assigned to an administrator made both of them less effective in their roles. We have made an effort to put the right people in the right places, including a recent assignment of one of our deputies to the drug task force. The addition of that deputy's skills into that unit, along with the skills that were already in this unit, has made for a highly productive team which has seen incredible results.

When I took office, I quoted General Patton "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." I also promoted "Doing the Right Thing, the Right Way, for the Right Reasons". I truly believe that this new outlook in our agency has given us a new perspective on how we can keep Dodge County as a safe place to live, work and visit.