



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Drug Information Needed

In light of the recent increases in overdoses and deaths resulting from heroin and opioid drugs, I evaluated improvements that we can make to help impact the drug trade in Dodge County. A recurring theme that continues to come up is drug intelligence. A major piece in the puzzle is that we need to do a better job of obtaining drug intelligence from the public.

Through my years as a law enforcement officer I have seen people who come across valuable intelligence every day in the technology that they have on their cell phones. I have heard from many people that they see people on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or other social media outlets who openly broadcast that they are using drugs or doing other criminal activity. People post pictures of the drugs, communicate in "code" to those they may be selling to or buying from or they will even post comments and pictures of themselves using drugs or committing crimes.

The problem is that many people who see these comments, photos or other forms of information don't know what to do with it. Fortunately, the sheriff's office has a solution. On the sheriff's office website www.dodgecountysheriff.com is a new icon and a link to send an email to our Drug Task Force. The email is capable of receiving attachments such as screen shots, photos or other documents. You can also use it to forward specific information to the Drug Task Force in regards to intelligence that you may have about drug use or sales.

Before you hit that send button, there are a few things I would like everyone to know. First of all, if you make a request to be anonymous, we are required by law to keep your name and contact information confidential. However, it is important to give us information such as a name, phone number, email address or some other way to contact you so that we have a way to ask follow up questions. Don't worry, you can give us this information and still be confidential. It will not only assist us in obtaining more information but it will lend credibility to the information.

Next, in order for us to act on your information, we need to have as much detail as possible. I have received tips as vague as, "The neighbors on my block are selling heroin." That very well may be true but it is difficult for us with limited resources available to be able to efficiently investigate these tips with this very general information. The tip should have more detailed information including addresses, descriptions of vehicles and people, the time of day and the time of the week, how often the activity is occurring and other activity that you believe to be suspicious. License plates are always a must if you are able to safely get them.

Finally, these same types of detailed tips are welcome for all kinds of crime or suspicious activity. Never be afraid to call us to report suspicious activity of any kind. You can submit your tip via our website as well. Some of the most major cases across the country have been solved from tips that seem minor to

the complainant. We would rather take a few minutes to investigate your tip than to never have it reported and miss out on something important. Law enforcement needs everyone to be active in keeping our neighborhoods safe. We must all work together to keeping Dodge County a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.

Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt