



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

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For Immediate Release:

October 8, 2026

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

"Operation Relentless Pursuit" Public Safety Initiative Results in 115 Arrests

(BINGHAMTON, NY) On Thursday, Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar released the results of the latest targeted public safety and crime response initiative conducted by the Broome County Sheriff's Office Strategic Response Group (SRG), Detectives, Road Patrol and Warrants divisions across Broome County over a period of 16 days in the past month.

During the month of September, the SRG team partnered with the Broome County Sheriff's Office Warrants Division, Detectives and Road Patrol deputies to target high-crime areas as well as individuals with various outstanding warrants issued by local courts, including 28 Arrest Warrants issued regarding new crimes committed and 27 Bench Warrants, issued when previously charged individuals fail to appear in court or ignore court orders.

"Regardless of where you are in Broome County, you deserve to feel safe," said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "Our Strategic Response Group's unique flexibility and use of real-time data to increase police presence in targeted neighborhoods, roads with frequent speeders or other problem areas throughout Broome County continues elevate our efforts and abilities overall to keep our communities safe. In addition to helping lighten the load for regular patrols, SRG also assisted our Detectives and Warrants divisions, tracking down wanted criminals so they could be held accountable in a court of law."

"Operation Relentless Pursuit" resulted in:

- 115 Total Arrests for either Criminal Charges or Outstanding Warrants
- 61 Total Warrant Arrests, including 27 Bench Warrants (44%)
- 39 Narcotics Arrests, including 3 Felony Narcotic Arrests
- 8 Vehicle and Traffic Arrests
- 7 Other Penal Law Arrests
- 58 Traffic Violations Issued (114 Traffic Stops Conducted)

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During the month of September, 158 penal law arrests were made across all law enforcement divisions at the Broome County Sheriff’s Office, with 115 taking place as part of Operation Relentless Pursuit and 54 of the arrests (34.18%) made by the Strategic Response Group.

Background on the SRG:

Activated in June 2024, the Broome County Sheriff’s Office Strategic Response Group is comprised of a versatile team of deputies charged with targeting quality-of-life concerns and safety needs of communities across Broome County. The team primarily focuses on concerns that may not be adequately addressed or not addressed in a timely manner due to high volume of calls for service for normal patrol deputies.

Utilizing statistical and crime-mapping data from the Southern Tier Crime Analysis Center in Binghamton, the SRG is able to identify and respond to reoccurring issues and activity, or “hot spots” in communities throughout Broome County.

These quality-of-life issues include, but are not limited to:

- Areas with a high numbers of speeding vehicles or repeat traffic complaints;
- Frequent or repeated narcotic activities (vehicle and foot traffic in particular areas);
- Persistent or complex calls for service that require greater intervention and solutions;
- Susceptible facility or building checks to prevent property crimes;
- Intervention techniques with persistent criminal offenders;
- Collaboration with community partners to intervene with individuals with substance use disorders;
- Engagement with homeless persons and connecting with services; and
- Targeted enforcement of high crime areas, especially those experiencing gun and gang-related violence.

In addition to statistical crime data, SRG utilizes input from community members, collaboration with community partners, and tips from the community to deploy resources efficiently and effectively to address these issues through a variety of techniques, intervention, and enforcement. Through flexible scheduling, the SRG operates at different times of day depending on community needs.

Since the SRG’s full-time activation in June of 2024, their targeted crime response has yielded over 700 arrests across Broome County, which ranged from Narcotics charges to fugitives with outstanding Arrest Warrants, to Vehicle and Traffic arrests, which included driving on a suspended or revoked license, DWI, suspended registration and other charges. During that same time period, the SRG conducted over 1,200 traffic stops and issued over 1,000 traffic violations.

E-Dirtbike, E-Motorcycle, E-Scooter and E-Bike Enforcement

Over the past several weeks, BCSO has also focused on illegal e-bike, e-scooter, dirtbike and e-motorcycle enforcement. During the summer of 2026, the Broome County Sheriff's Office received dozens of complains from residents in the Town of Union as well as other areas around Broome County regarding dirtbikes, e-motorcycles, scooters and more being operated illegally on public roadways, sidewalks and railroad tracks by juveniles, creating safety concerns for drivers and residents. Many of these complaints involved dozens of young riders operating bikes illegally.

BCSO utilized a two-prong approach to deal with these issues, first focusing on education before shifting to enforcement. Over the past month, BCSO deputies tracked over 24 interactions with juveniles operating e-scooter/e-dirtbikes/e-bicycles, providing warnings and having parents come pick up the child and the bike. Due to non-compliance, the Broome County Sheriff's Office has had to seize 5 e-dirtbikes/mini-bikes over the past month.

“Juvenile riders cannot be issued traffic violations the way adults can, but our team has made every effort to contact the parents of juvenile offenders and ultimately seize bikes after multiple reports of laws being broken,” said Sheriff Akshar.

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