



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Broome County Leaders Announce Activation of Strategic Response Group

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar joined Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, Broome County Legislature Chairman Dan Reynolds, members of the Broome County Legislature, members of the Broome County Sheriff's Office and other local leaders to announce the activation of the BCSO's full-time Strategic Response Group (SRG).

The SRG is comprised of a versatile team of deputies charged with targeting quality-of-life concerns and safety needs of communities across Broome County. The specialized team of one sergeant and three deputies will focus primarily on community 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.

"Regardless of where you are in Broome County, you deserve to feel safe," said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "When our communities experience persistent issues that need additional attention, we are now in the best position to adequately reprioritize, respond and serve the people of Broome County. Our new Strategic Response Group will utilize the latest technology, data and community partnerships to fulfill and uphold our unwavering commitment to the safety of our residents."

Utilizing statistical and crime-mapping data from the Southern Tier Crime Analysis Center in Binghamton, the SRG is able to identify 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;

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- 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 will utilize 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 will operate at different times of day depending on community needs.

The SRG's activities will reduce the calls for service for traditional zone patrol deputies, allowing them to handle criminal complaints, 911 calls and an overall increase response time to emergencies.

The team's activation follows recent targeted response operations in March of 2024 and September of 2023, which yielded over 115 arrests ranging from weapon and narcotics possession or distribution, to fugitives with outstanding Arrest Warrants, to Vehicle and Traffic violations, including DWIs.

"Activating the Strategic Response Group is a big step in improving public safety, aiming to create a safer environment and focus on community needs," said Broome County Executive Jason Garnar. "Thank you to Sheriff Akshar for the dedication to addressing community concerns and protecting Broome County residents."

"Keeping residents safe is a top priority for Broome County government," said Broome County Legislature Chairman Dan J. Reynolds. "Thank you to Sheriff Akshar, and all of the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Department, for continuing to take action to protect the quality of life in our communities."

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