

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF DENNIS M. LEMMA



SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF DENNIS M. LEMMA

MISSION:

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE BY REDUCING CRIME AND THE
FEAR OF CRIME IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA



The greatest responsibility of a civilized society is to protect and preserve human life.

The men and women of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office believe in the dignity of people and the sanctity of human life.

We are committed to community policing, combating substance use disorder, and addressing mental health issues at the earliest stage.

We are dedicated to serving and protecting the community by adopting innovative strategies that promote public safety and well-being.

Dear Seminole County Residents & Supporters,

Welcome to the **2022 Annual Report**.

We are proud to present the 2022 Seminole County Sheriff's Office annual report. Our agency is committed to serving the community by prioritizing their needs and investing in modern policing practices. Our goal is to continuously improve the lives of our members while protecting the citizens we serve.

As COVID-19 restrictions continued to be lifted last year, our agency and citizens began adjusting to a "new normal." We returned to routine operations and went back to holding our outreach and community events that have become an important part of our organization and community investment strategy. However, some things remained constant even during uncertain times - our efforts in fighting the opioid and fentanyl crisis, addressing substance use disorders at all levels, and improving mental health services, which remain at the forefront of our external agenda. We have made a significant impact locally and across the state and nation, but we recognize that the hard work still lies ahead. We remain committed to combating this epidemic as an agency and with our community partners. Too many lives are being lost and families are forever being impacted. We refuse to sit idle.

Our fundamental pledge to public safety is paramount to quality of life in our county, and requires a significant investment of resources. We continue to be mindful of this fact and are constantly planning for the present, while exploring new and innovative ways to deliver services now and into the future. This philosophy has guided our work in the past, and will continue to do so in the future. Together, we can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our public safety efforts, while also ensuring that we are meeting the evolving needs of our communities.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma



2022 CRIME STATS

As our community returned to pre-pandemic operations, Florida remained at historically-low crime rates, as did we here in Seminole County.



Uniform Crime Reporting Program

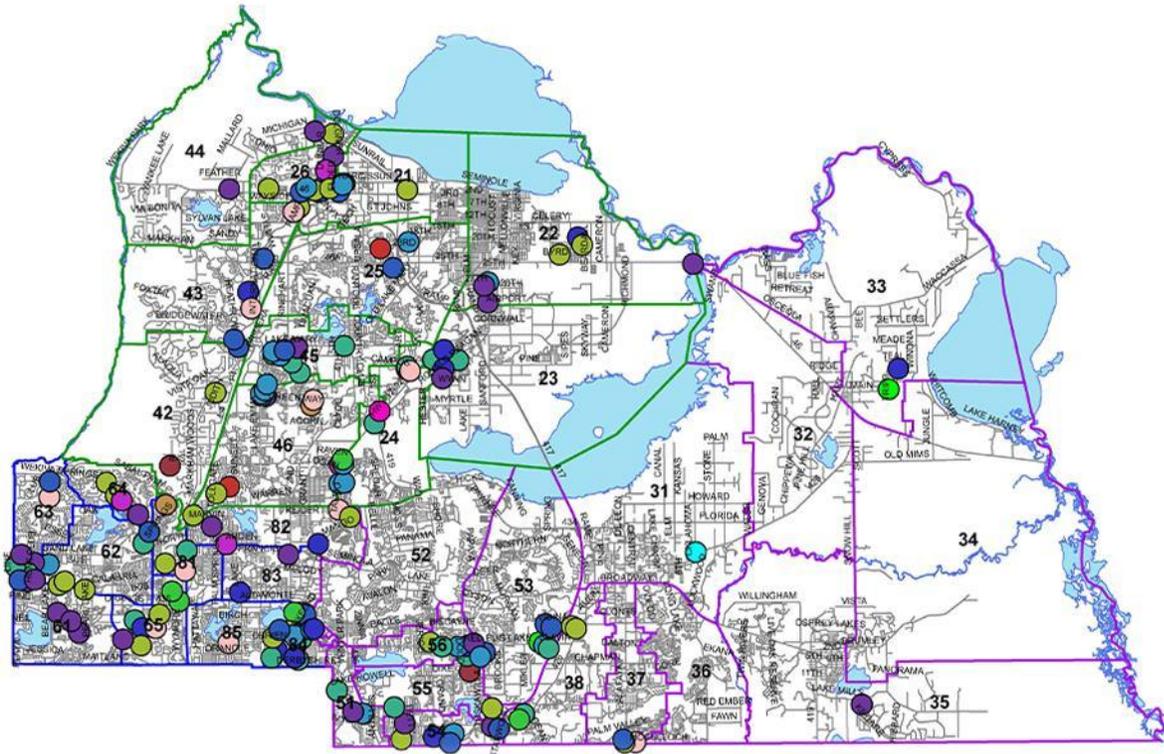
The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program generates reliable statistics for use in law enforcement. It also provides information for students of criminal justice, researchers, the media, and the public.

UCR collects data that can be used as a tool to create a report card for a community. The data submitted can create a comparison between other jurisdictions, and even across the state and nation. Over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States collect and submit the data to create an overall snapshot on crime statistics and trends.

Here are our stats from 2022:



	2021	2022	% Change
Violent Offenses			
Murder	3	7	133.3
Rape	73	57	-21.9
Robbery	20	42	110
Aggravated Assault	216	229	6
Violent Offense Total	312	335	7.4
Violent Crime Rate	136.9	145	5.9
Property Offenses			
Burglary	387	225	-41.9
Larceny	1145	1436	25.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	91	132	45.1
Property Offense Total	1623	1793	10.5
Property Crime Rate	712.2	775.8	8.9
Total Index Offenses	1935	2128	10
Clearance Rate for Index Offenses	23.8	27.4	15.4



All of our **2022 Crime Maps** are available to view online.

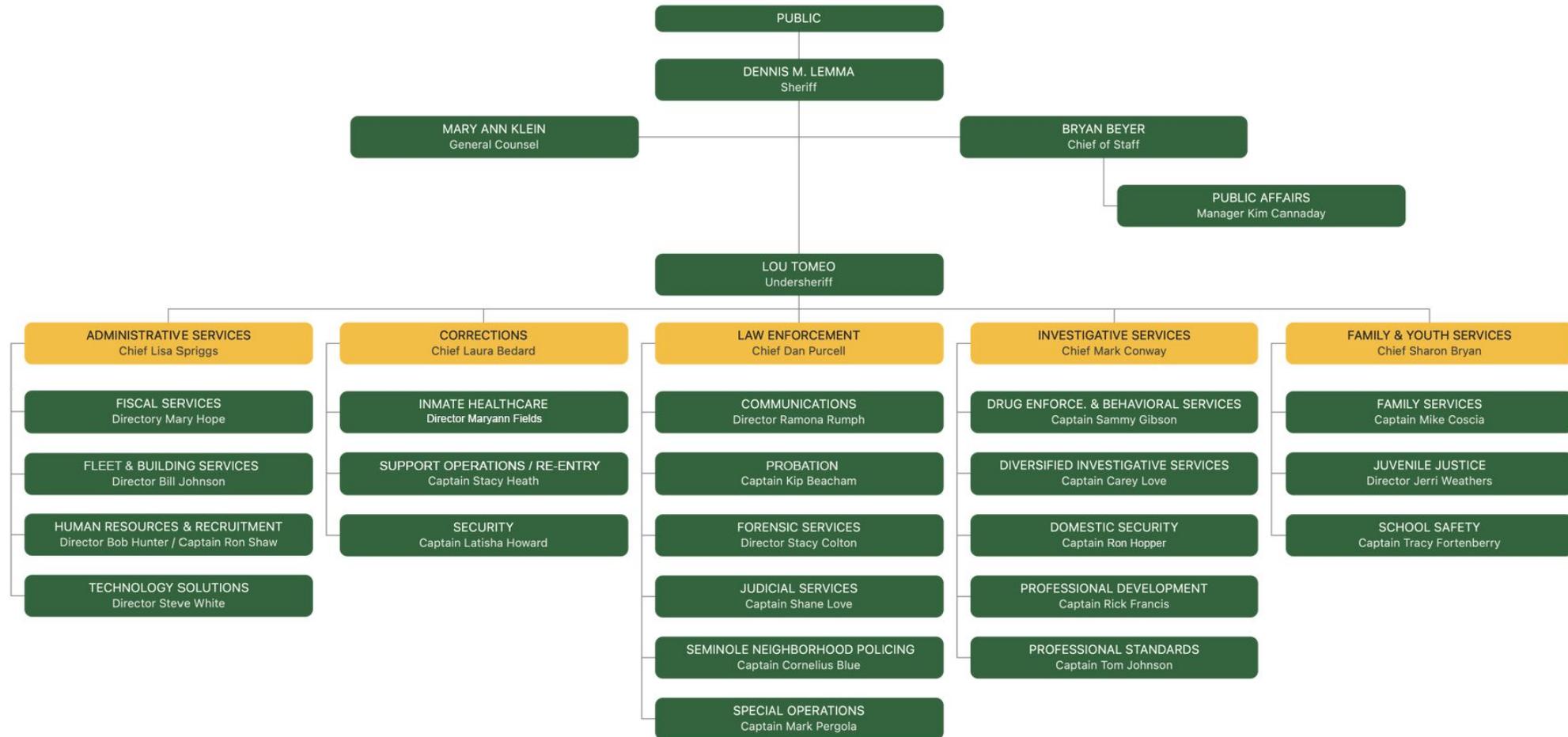
Want to see what happened in your neighborhood and near your business last year? Our monthly crime maps indicate Part 1 Crimes which have been reported to the Sheriff's Office for the respective month and include only those reported in unincorporated Seminole County. If the incident resulted in more than one offense, only the most serious is recorded and displayed on these maps. (For example, if a crime occurred which included Aggravated Assault and Burglary, only the Aggravated Assault would be displayed since it is the more serious crime.)

Click [here](#) to see the crime maps.



2022 Organizational Chart

Chain of Command & **How We Work Together**



We're committed to making **life in Seminole County better.**

Our internal priorities and external investments are based on our greatest needs as a modern-day policing organization, and the most significant community concerns to the citizens of Seminole County. Together, these priorities are an essential part of our shared successes. They will improve our agency, the lives of agency members, and the well-being of the citizens we have the honor to serve. Through these goals and priorities, we will build long-term value as an agency, a profession, and as one community.

EXTERNAL:

SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY

MENTAL HEALTH

ENHANCED COMMUNITY RELATIONS

TRANSPARENCY IN POLICING & INFORMATION

INTERNAL:

LEADERSHIP & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY



Legislative **Victory**

In May 2022, Governor DeSantis signed HB95, a controlled substances bill designed and championed by our agency, with the full support of the Florida Sheriffs Association and Sheriffs across the state of Florida. The provisions of this bill came out of the recommendation of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse, a task force chaired by Florida's Attorney General Ashley Moody, and co-chaired by Sheriff Dennis Lemma.



The Seminole County Sheriff's Office remains committed to pursuing legislative changes that help protect the lives of Seminole County residents and holds those offending in our communities accountable.

With this legislative change, HB95:

- Adds methamphetamine to the list of specified controlled substances which, if the substance caused or is proven to have been a substantial factor in producing the victim's death, can subject the person who distributed the controlled substance to a conviction for first-degree murder.
- Increases the penalties for the sale of a controlled substance from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony, and from a second-degree felony to a first-degree felony, when the offense is committed within 1,000 feet of a substance abuse treatment facility.
- Enhanced penalties for Trafficking in Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues
 - 4 grams or more, but less than 14 grams, such person shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 7 years [formerly 3 years] and shall be ordered to pay a fine of \$50,000.
 - 14 grams or more, but less than 28 grams, such person shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 20 years [formerly 15 years] and shall be ordered to pay a fine of \$100,000.
 - 28 grams or more, such person shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 25 years and shall be ordered to pay a fine of \$500,000. *(No change to this part, only provided as an example.)*

A Winning Strategy

Our mission is to guide individuals with substance use disorder towards recovery by utilizing resources available within Seminole County, which includes the AdventHealth Hope & Healing Center. The center's treatment program offers clinical therapy, support group meetings, medication-assisted treatment, and spiritual and career-building opportunities. Our Seminole Collaborative Opioid Response Efforts (SCORE) Team offers services and support to overdose victims, and creates a plan for their recovery while encouraging voluntary entry into the treatment center.

Our efforts have resulted in a positive impact in the fight against opioid overdoses and fentanyl poisonings. In 2022, countywide overdoses saw a 13% decrease (746) compared to 2021 (857), and an 8% decrease in countywide deaths related to overdoses and poisonings (118 in 2022, and 128 in 2021).



In 2022, we launched our "One Pill Can Kill" wrapped patrol car to raise awareness about the dangers of counterfeit pills and fentanyl, thanks to a collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County.

Hope & Healing

We commemorated the one-year anniversary the Hope & Healing Center. The center opened in 2021 as a partnership between the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Seminole County EMS/Fire Rescue, the Board of County Commissioners, and AdventHealth to address the opioid crisis through a holistic, compassionate approach.

The Hope & Healing Center offers a 30-day inpatient program as well as intensive outpatient treatment, including individual and group counseling, substance-related and recovery-focused education, reflection and spiritual healing groups, and career and housing assistance.

We were also happy to celebrate new funding that ensures the Hope & Healing Center will continue treating residents who struggle with opioid addiction. In March, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy announced a \$400,000 federal appropriation for the Center, ensuring that Seminole County residents can continue to access transformative treatment for opioid addiction. Additionally, the Florida Legislature approved \$400,000 in funding for the second year in a row.



A Focus on Reflecting Our **Community**

Recruiting & Retaining the Best

SCSO prioritizes recruitment efforts to reflect the community we serve. We aim for a diverse workforce, including race, gender, and religion. This aligns with our philosophy of community policing, which emphasizes an understanding of citizens and communities. By recruiting from diverse backgrounds, we can better represent the population we serve.



Staffing

Our Members are our **Greatest Resource**

As our greatest resource, we aim to maintain the necessary staffing levels with a highly-qualified workforce. The budget provides funding to maintain existing staffing levels, including nearly 1,400 full-time positions consisting of sworn deputy sheriffs, certified detention deputies, civilian positions, and approximately 150 part-time civilian positions.

In 2022, we welcomed 163 new members to our agency. We continued to have an 84% retention rate, and we promoted 16 people in 2022 to formal or informal leadership positions.



New Technology

Increases **Transparency** & **Accountability**

In today's world, transparency is highly valued and sought after. To align with this value, we have made the decision to switch to Axon body worn cameras. This shift will enable us to maintain a higher level of accountability and transparency while carrying out our duties. Some of the key benefits of the Axon body worn cameras include improved audio and video quality, enhanced battery life, and greater durability.



This new camera has a clear frame playback which reduces motion blur during recording, providing us with better evidence during with a near-photographic level of detail.

Additionally, the Axon platform provides us with advanced tools for managing and sharing footage, making it easier to collaborate with other departments and agencies. This new advanced technology serves as only one step in the ongoing efforts to serve our community with the utmost of integrity and professionalism.

John E. Polk Correctional Facility

Programs & Systems for **Successful Re-Entry** into our Community

The John E. Polk Correctional Facility (JEPCF) is Seminole County's adult detention facility. JEPCF houses pre-trial felony and misdemeanor inmates, sentenced misdemeanor inmates, convicted felony inmates awaiting transfer to state correctional facilities, and federal inmates awaiting trial in U.S. Courts. The facility can hold 1,396 inmates with varying populations throughout the year. It serves as the only adult correctional facility in the county.

Seminole County incarceration rates have remained lower than the state and national rates. In 2022, Seminole County had approximately 750 inmates per 100,000 Seminole County residents. Average Daily Population (ADP) during 2022 was 819, the jail was at 59% of its maximum capacity. Deputies in the Intake area processed a total of 9,991 inmates throughout the year.

JEPCF is focused on reentry programming to help inmates succeed upon release. The correctional staff enhanced the inmate services by assembling a team and dedicated physical assets to create two self-contained treatment units to address substance-use disorders. Some notable inmate programs include:

- MAT - Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- iBuild - Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Trades Program
- Project Courage - focuses on teaching an employable skill set to participants
 - 117 inmates received identification cards or driver's licenses through programs offered by JEPCF in 2022.
- ReNEW/ACTT Dorm - community building and empowerment reentry programs for substance-involved incarcerated individuals
 - ACTT Inmates 2022: Total Participants 193
- Faith-based Programs
 - Number of Hours Chaplains Present at JEPCF - 3,731 Hours



Dive Team

Searching with **Sonar & Drones**

More than 10% of Seminole County, 36 square miles, are bodies of water. This requires our Underwater Search and Recovery Team (USART) to be prepared to search all of it. The team consists of individuals with the Master Diver Rating who undergo monthly training and a full week of annual training to maintain their certification. Our community has significantly benefited from using underwater sonar and a remote-operated underwater search drone. In 2022, the team had 19 deployments and 16 training sessions, totaling 2,565 person-hours. They also provided recovery assistance to Polk and Osceola Counties. The team possesses a range of underwater skills, including evidence rescue, item salvage, body retrieval, and can gather evidence from plane crashes, submerged vehicles, and other scenarios.



Innovative Training & Development

In 2022, we started a new training process referred to as Block Training, which allows SCSO trainers to more efficiently recertify and refresh agency members in 26 weeks on topics such as Firearms, Emergency Vehicle Operator Course Arrest, Control Techniques, Firearms, Taser, and CPR.

Trainers also lead classes of Active Threat training, which incorporate building clearing, officer recovery, and TAC-Med. Our team trains and identifies best practices while adhering to agency policy, accreditation standards, and Criminal Justice and Training Commission requirements. Leadership and Career Development are top priorities, and the team continues to develop and provide opportunities in these areas.





Leading **Major County Sheriffs of America**

In January 2022, Sheriff Lemma was honored to be sworn in to serve as the President of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), and pledged to build on past successes and advance shared causes through advocacy and action.

The MCSA represents the best individuals and organizations in the criminal justice field, with a membership that now represents over 100 of the largest Sheriff's Offices across the United States, representing approximately 130 million citizens. They bring diverse experiences, knowledge, challenges, and solutions to the table.

Sheriff Lemma firmly believes in the mission of the MCSA and its ability to advocate for our shared causes, missions, and constituents. As elected Sheriffs, they work together to address pressing issues in our communities, states, and nation.

Sheriffs are directly responsible to the citizens they serve, and their involvement in the MCSA allows them to adopt best practices from across the nation and bring them back to their communities and citizens.

Honoring Seminole County's **Fallen Heroes**

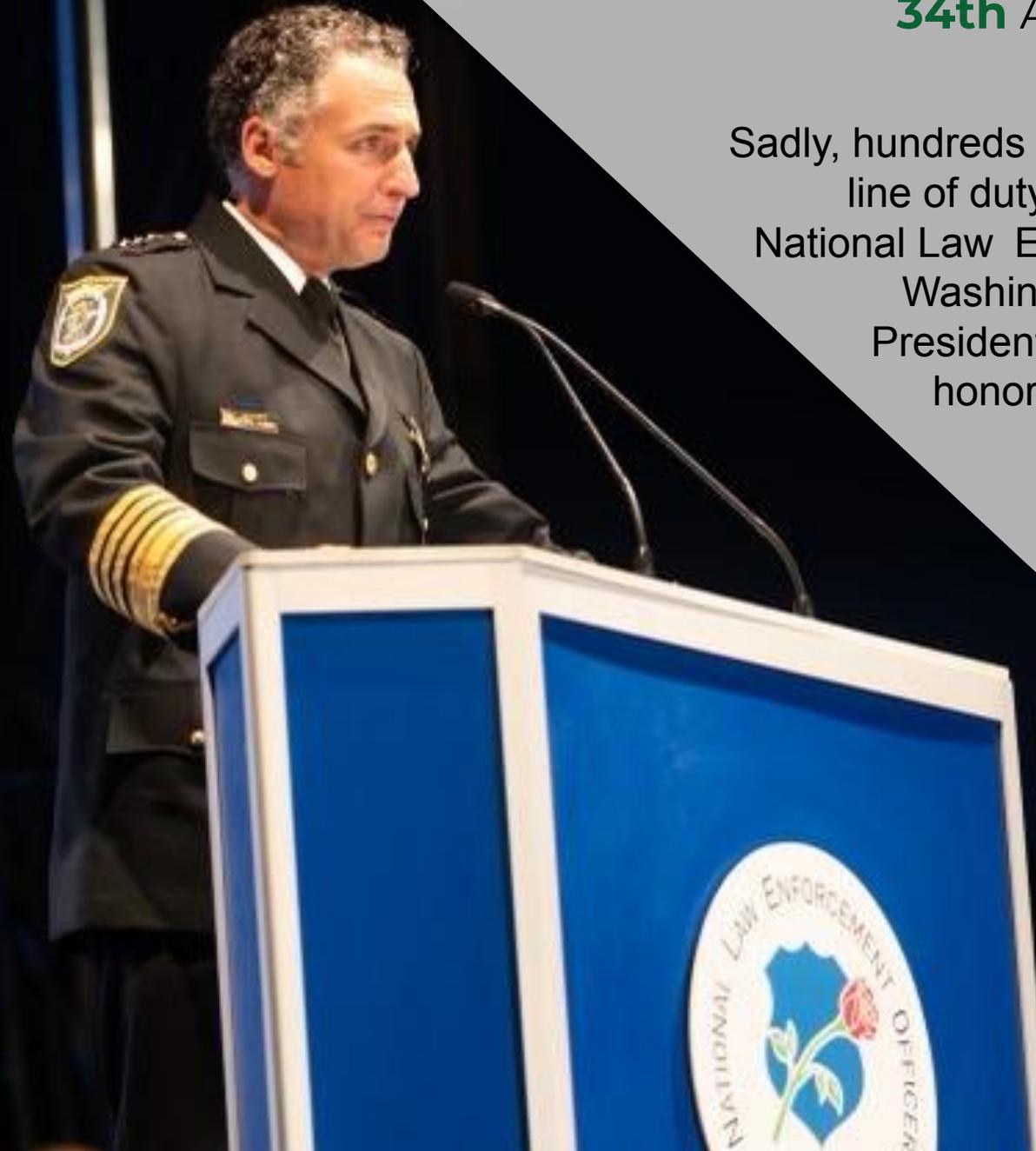
In May, the SCSO held our annual Memorial Ceremony to honor our six fallen heroes, as well as those from Longwood Police Department, Florida Highway Patrol, and Officer German of the Windermere Police Department, who was a product of Seminole County. Sheriff Lemma delivered remarks, and Roger Handberg, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, served as a memorable keynote speaker. The SCSO Honor Guard, along with municipal partners, also participated in the event. It was a solemn occasion to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities. The ceremony served as a reminder of the bravery and selflessness displayed by law enforcement officers every day and the importance of honoring their memory.

Click [here](#) to watch the ceremony video.



34th Annual Candlelight Vigil

Sadly, hundreds of names of officers killed in the line of duty are engraved on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., each year. As MCSA President, Sheriff Lemma had the distinct honor of participating in the reading of over 600 names of the fallen at the 2022 Police Week Candlelight Vigil, hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.





100 Year Anniversary of our First Fallen Deputy

September 14, 2022, marked the 100-year anniversary of the passing of James Cleveland Jacobs, Seminole County's first deputy to die in the line of duty. His death was caused by a suspected thief who shot and killed him. Despite his untimely death, Jacobs was a hero and local pioneer who left a legacy of public service that dates back to the founding of the county. In honor of his memory, a new video has been released to celebrate his life and contributions to the community.

Click [here](#) to watch the full video.

SCSO Honor Guard Team

Rendering Honors & Presenting the Colors

The Honor Guard Team represents the Sheriff's Office at all ceremonial events and services to include funerals, parades, and other formal proceedings.

The 2022 Honor Guard Team was comprised of 20 full-time members. They participated in 77 event details in 2022. This is the largest number of details worked by the unit in Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) history. There were 227 total Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) in the United States in 2022. The Honor Guard participated in seven LODD funerals, responded to nine SCSO agency-related funerals, received 45 Color Guard requests, four parades, six bagpiping services, and six memorial services.



Additional to their Honor Guard duties, the team participated and taught in the SCSO annual Public Safety Honor Guard Academy which consisted of an additional 28 hours of training. For the first time, the team also brought in an outside instructor from Competitive Outcomes to teach basic rifle drills. Members received 24 hours of exhibition rifle drill training in October

The Honor Guard continued to provide a strong sense of pride and support to the agency and the community throughout the year, and their efforts did not go unnoticed. The team's dedication to their duties is a testament to their unwavering commitment to serving their community. Their professionalism and commitment to honoring fallen officers were widely recognized and appreciated.

Family and Youth Services

Teaching Children **Skills for Success**

Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) is one of our Department of Youth and Family Services innovative programs that helps children regulate their emotions, problem-solve, and work on impulse control. It is designed to provide kids with the tools they need to respond to situations using both rational and emotional thoughts. Developed in partnership with the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, SNAP is an evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral model that teaches children and their parents how to effectively manage emotions and prevent problems from escalating. The SCSO is the only law enforcement agency in Florida that operates SNAP for its county. Working alongside community partners, we offer various versions of SNAP in schools and community centers.



Pictured here are members of Florida Network Board of Directors along with Sheriff Dennis Lemma, Undersheriff Lou Tomeo, Chief Sharon Bryan, members of Family & Youth Services, and Retired Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger, who now serves as the Florida Risk Management Fund Executive Director.

School Safety

Teaching the Dangers of Drug Use **Through Art**

The Drug-Free Red Ribbon art contest is an annual event coordinated by our School Safety Division that encourages students to create artwork promoting a drug-free lifestyle. The contest is open to all students, from 5th to 8th grade, and provides an opportunity for young people to express their creativity while also promoting a positive message.

The entries are judged on originality, creativity, and relevance to the theme. Winners receive prizes, recognition at a ceremony, and the satisfaction of knowing that their artwork is helping to spread an important message.

By encouraging students to think creatively about how to promote a drug-free lifestyle, we can help to create a culture where substance abuse is not the norm and where young people are empowered to make healthy choices.



2022 DRUG-FREE RED RIBBON **ART CONTEST**

sponsored by the

SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Drug-Free Red Ribbon
ART CONTEST
WINNER

Noah Foster
8th Grade
GRAND PRIZE WINNER
Greenwood Lakes
Middle School



Supporting Our Community

Backing & Partnering with **Local Organizations**

Our agency places a high value on giving back to our community and supporting local organizations, as we recognize that supporting our local partners and initiatives is essential to our mission. We continue to prioritize partnering with the organizations that best align with our values and shared goals. By doing so, we are not only creating positive change within our community but also fostering long-term relationships with the people and organizations that make it thrive.

Kids House, Boys & Girls Club, and Inspire are just a few groups we partnered with in 2022. The "BatKid" event stood out as one of the most extraordinary and heartwarming experiences. Sheriff Lemma and other first responder organizations "joined forces for good" to assist the Give Kids The World organization in providing a memorable experience for a 6-year-old boy who wanted to be a superhero for the day. The child was transformed into "BatKid" and bravely saved the Orlando Magic mascot, Stuff, after being kidnapped by the Joker.



Swearing in a **Special** Honorary Deputy

We are pleased to introduce Devarjaye “DJ” Daniel, the newest SCSO honorary Deputy. DJ is 11 years old and is from Pearland, TX. His bravery is exemplary, and he displays enormous courage as he beats the odds against terminal brain and spinal cancer. DJ is on a mission to get sworn into as many law enforcement agencies as possible to increase awareness of childhood cancers and honor the memory of 6-year-old cancer patient Abigail Arias, who had the same goal.

The special ceremony took place on Dec 5, when the FBI National Academy Session 284 students, including our own Captain Rick Francis, welcomed DJ to Quantico, Virginia, and treated him to a day filled with fun and lasting memories. In all, 50 individual police agencies swore DJ in as an honorary member.



Office of The
United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida



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Middle District of Florida



United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida



Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

For more than ten years, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the FBI by providing Task Force Officers and other detectives to work on child exploitation cases. The detectives have served as the lead case agents, undercover officers, and forensic examiners. In November, United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg presented the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and detectives assigned to the Task Force with the Child Protection Award for helping to investigate more than 100 cases that have resulted in successful federal prosecutions of child exploitation offenses as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative.

SCSO Honors & Celebrates Agency Members

Sheriff Dennis Lemma recognized more than 350 individuals in our 2022 Member Recognition Ceremonies who went above and beyond during the year. These include organizing residential clean-ups, volunteering during hurricane relief efforts, taking courageous life-saving actions, improving efficiency in various areas of the agency, and demonstrating extreme bravery in dangerous circumstances. The Sheriff's recognition of the diverse accomplishments of these individuals and teams is an honor that highlights the outstanding contributions made toward enhancing the safety and security of the community.



FOX 35 Care Force Awards

Standing Out & Giving Back

Several agency members and teams were humbled and grateful to receive the “FOX 35 Care Force Award,” honoring them as first responders dedicated to helping others, giving back to our community, making strives in their profession, and consistently going above and beyond the call of duty. The recognition is a testament to their hard work and selflessness, and we are honored to be acknowledged by our media partners for their efforts in serving and protecting the public.



Chaplain Corp

SCSO Chaplain Receives **National Recognition**

The SCSO's Chaplain Corps includes community members who offer guidance to employees, families, victims, and the community. They provide emotional and spiritual support during difficult times and help individuals cope with challenging situations. Their presence helps create a more compassionate and caring environment within the Sheriff's office and our community.

In 2022, SCSO Chaplain Walt Person was presented with the National Sheriff's Association Medal of Merit certificate. Chaplain Person has been with the agency for 15 years and currently serves as our Volunteer Chaplain Coordinator. Throughout his time with our organization, he has worked diligently to develop relationships with community members and has assisted several local law enforcement agencies in strengthening their Chaplain Corps programs. He is also an instructor with the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) and provides spiritual guidance for the individuals who are court-ordered to attend Veterans Court. Additionally, Chaplain Person also received the John. A Price Award during the International Conference of Police Chaplains banquet. The John A. Price award is presented to chaplains who display high standards, exemplary service, and consistently going above and beyond.



Storm Response 2022

Hurricane **Ian** & Tropical Storm **Nicole**

On September 28, Hurricane Ian made landfall in Southwest Florida as a powerful Category 4 storm. It made its way through Central Florida as a Category 1 storm, bringing over 16 inches of rainfall and historic flooding to some parts of Seminole County.

There was significant loss of power during this storm event; however, the flooding was the biggest issue. Over 167 homes suffered considerable damage from the rising flood waters, which was exasperated by the unique northern flow of the St. John's River. This brought flood waters from the southern afflicted areas of the state and caused the floods to last for weeks.

On November 10, Tropical Storm Nicole swept across our region, bringing more rain and flooding.





Storm Response 2022

Helping our Citizens in Times of Need.

Our agency was prepared to deal with the myriad of storm-related issues. In the days leading up to the storms' arrivals, agency members activated emergency plans. Proper planning was key to our success, from preparing emergency vehicles and shelter locations to increasing staff in essential areas, assisting in evacuations, and increasing patrol presence.

During and after, the men and women of our agency went above and beyond. Our Range and Water teams, working alongside the Seminole County Fire Department and FDLE, went house to house checking on residents and assisting with evacuations. Our heavy rescue vehicles were instrumental in getting services to the residents in the flooded areas of Geneva and the Little Wekiva River basin in Altamonte Springs.

We remind residents and businesses of Seminole County to always have a proper storm plan in place.

Storm Response 2022

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis & Attorney General Ashley Moody Survey **Storm Damage**

Within hours of storm moving out of the area, Governor Ron DeSantis visited Seminole County with FEMA officials and Florida Department of Emergency Management administrators to survey the inland damage caused by Hurricane Ian. He took an aerial tour of the county with Sheriff Lemma and Chief Pilot Lt. Farris. DeSantis noted that some inland areas were affected worse than some (not all) coastal counties. Regular updates were provided to the Governor's office, FDEM, and FEMA regarding the status of Seminole County, especially the flooding on the east side of the county. All parties pledged support for the recovery efforts and appreciation for first responders.

Florida's Attorney General Ashley Moody also toured and viewed the affected areas from the air, particularly Geneva, State Road 46, and Sanford. The Attorney General remained in contact with the Seminole County team and law enforcement agencies across the state throughout the storm and emphasized a zero-tolerance policy for price gouging.





Backing the Blue

Seminole County Sheriff Foundation **Supports our Members**

The Seminole County Sheriff Foundation hosted the 2022 "Blueline Gala," an event made possible by our partners at Axon. This incredible gathering drew over 1,000 supporters, sponsors, and policing professionals. The main objective of the event was to raise funds for the Foundations that support the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, and Orlando Police Department. The proceeds from the event will be used towards philanthropic efforts that benefit Sheriff's Office deputies, employees, and their families in their greatest time of need, as well as innovations in crime fighting.

The Foundation aims to provide support to peace officers, who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe.

Click [here](#) to visit the Sheriff Foundation website.

SCSO Community Foundation

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office Community Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to aid underserved and at-risk populations in the county. The foundation seeks to achieve this goal through education, prevention, and provision of resources.

The Board of Directors, which is appointed by Sheriff Lemma, is made up of members of the community and the Sheriff's Office. This ensures that the foundation is representative of the people it serves and can effectively address their needs.



Presented by The Hartford



The foundation plays a vital role in creating a safer and more equitable society for all. Its services go a long way in empowering individuals and communities to overcome challenges and lead fulfilling lives. Programs supported by the Foundation include but not limited to:

- Christmas Village
- Halloween Safety Spooktacular
- Shop with the Sheriff
- Police Athletic League

These events are possible because of charitable donations to our Community Foundation.



21st Annual Christmas Village

Spreading **Holiday Cheer**

Each December, the SCSO partners with care providers to host a special holiday event for children who are victims of abuse or neglect, are in foster care, or are underserved. Volunteers gather donations and raise funds to get thousands of toys and set up a Christmas Village with games, crafts, and a visit with Santa. While the kids enjoy the activities, their parents and caregivers secretly shop for toys to be taken home for Christmas morning. Community members and businesses also participate by having toy drives, donating toys, or giving monetary donations.

The 2022 event was moved to the SCSO headquarters, allowing more room for activities, better parking, and the ability for families not able to attend the day of the event to still receive toys. This community-based event helped fulfill Christmas wishes for nearly 200 children.

Halloween Spooktacular: **Family Friendly, Spooky Event**

In October, we hosted our annual Halloween Safety Spooktacular, which was presented by The Hartford and held as an in-person event for the first time since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. The event was once again a huge success, with families gathering to enjoy free Trunk-or-Treating and snow cones served by our Snow Patrol. COX media, Star 94.5, and K92.3 provided music and entertainment, and we were pleased to have several community partners and sponsors join us for this family-friendly event. Regardless of a slight rain delay, the event was well-attended, and everyone had a great time.





Shop with the Sheriff

Education, Resources, **Positive Relationships** with Law Enforcement

In 2022, 250 students were given an unforgettable back-to-school shopping experience for new clothes and essentials during our annual Shop with the Sheriff event, thanks in large part to the significant involvement of community partners, Seminole County Public Schools, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, and Sheriff's Office members.

This experience provides a valuable mentoring opportunity by deputies and members of our agency. It prepares students for success in the new school year with confidence and increased self-esteem in the classroom. Shop with the Sheriff is a signature event of our Community Foundation, and is completely funded through charitable contributions.

