



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

April 25, 2023

Contact Emmanuel Priest

607-778-2437

emmanuel.priest@broomecountyny.gov

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING IN OUR FIRST 100 DAYS

by Sheriff Fred Akshar

After 100 days of new leadership at the Broome County Sheriff's Office, I couldn't be prouder of our efforts to bring sweeping, positive change to the BCSO.

Here are some highlights:

Transforming the Correctional Facility:

We heard for years about the terrible conditions at the Jail – the depleted, overworked staff and the complete lack of programming and services for those incarcerated. For too long, Correctional Facility inmates and staff alike were treated as afterthoughts, but Undersheriff Davis and I immediately prioritized changing the culture, attitudes and righting the ship.

Partnering with the County Executive and the County Legislature, we launched an aggressive recruitment effort, **hiring 29 new Corrections Officers** to help fill 40+ inherited vacancies and help end the countless hours of taxpayer-paid overtime and create safer conditions for everyone.

We've doubled visitation hours for families and loved ones and plan on expanding visitation again when new recruits are fully trained.

We created a Reentry Reform Work Group of local health, workforce and social service professionals, advocates and previously incarcerated individuals to ensure inmates get the assistance they need while incarcerated to become productive, contributing members to society when they leave.

We've restored 30 active programs slots and classes available for inmates every week – up from 0 in January with more to come.

We reconfigured the inmate grievance system and are **holding the Jail's medical and food service providers accountable** for falling short on providing necessary and contractually required services.

We're creating a full-time Corrections Investigation Unit with a K9 to help curb drug smuggling attempts at the jail.

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

Engaging the Community

Our goal is to be the most transparent, effective and engaging law enforcement agency in the State by integrating our team with the community like never before.

We're **doubling our community engagement officers** and **scheduling Public Safety Town Hall Meetings** around Broome to be as accessible and transparent as possible.

We performed a **comprehensive review of every single BCSO policy**, with updates reflecting the highest policing standards. We've **updated officer training and re-education** to ensure our team is fully trained on implicit bias, the duty to intervene, and the use of force. When no internal policy existed regarding specific uses of force like chokeholds or knees on the neck, we rewrote the policy to explicitly prohibit these tactics in every situation, excluding officer survival.

Soon **we'll be launching a Broome County Sheriff's App** to provide the community with the latest public safety updates and information on their phones and allow families of inmates to communicate with and receive information about loved ones at the jail, send commissary or photos, and pay bail on their phone.

Looking Forward

None of these changes would be possible without the support, dedication, and commitment of those wearing the uniform, serving and protecting our community every day. They embody the service, integrity and honor required by their chosen profession to help keep Broome County's families safe.

Moreover, none of these changes would be possible without the continued support and engagement from the people of our community.

Together, we've hit the ground running on our way to building a better, safer community for everyone in Broome County, but we are just getting started.

###