



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:

September 12, 2023

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

"Earl is Going Home." Homeless Man Living at Bus Stop Reunited with Family

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Thanks to a group effort from the Broome County Sheriff's Office and the Broome County Department of Social Services, a homeless man living in a bus stop for months has finally returned home to his family in Ohio.

Over the past several months, Earl Sutton has been living at the bus stop shelter near the intersection of Upper Front Street and Old Front Street in the Town of Dickinson.

Throughout that time, community members, health care workers, law enforcement and others have repeatedly attempted to help Earl access various community services and find a permanent residence. While Earl had both access and eligibility for a variety of social services and public assistance, he continued to refuse any assistance or opportunities to take advantage of those services.

"We had all spoken with Earl and tried to get him to seek the help he needed, but at the time, Earl was not interested," said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "We were running out of options, but living at a bus stop is not an acceptable solution for anyone, especially as the weather begins to turn cold."

In August, Sheriff Akshar directed the Broome County Sheriff's Office team to attempt to locate and contact Earl's family. Law Enforcement Division Captain Ben Harting was able to reach Sutton's Uncle, James Sutton, in Toledo, Ohio. According to Uncle James, Earl had been missing for two years.

"My family is grateful and so happy he's been found," James Sutton said. "Earl had a bike accident that left him in a challenging mental state. He had stopped taking his medication and disappeared. For two years, no one knew where he was. We thought he might be dead."

Working with the Broome County Sheriff's Office and Broome County Department of Social Services, Earl's Uncle James traveled from Ohio to reunite with Earl on September 8, 2023 and bring him home.

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

“I’d like to publicly thank our dedicated members of the Law Enforcement Division for all their hard work and unwavering commitment to doing everything they can to make our community a safer place for all our residents,” said Akshar said. “Thank you to Broome County Department of Social Services and Earl’s family for all coming together to ensure this situation had the best of all possible outcomes.”

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