



<b>MISSION</b>	
✓ <b>new:</b> <b>rescinds:</b> <b>amends: All previous</b>	
<b>cross-reference:</b> <b>accreditation standards:</b> NYSLEAP Standard(s): 1.1, 12.9, 29.1, 29.3	
<b>effective date:</b> January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019	<b>amend date:</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish and describe the values, mission, and role of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office. In defining the role, two broad purposes are served. First, members are made aware of the attitudes and actions expected of them and can act without hesitation in conformance with Sheriff's Office policy. Second, the public is provided with a general standard by which they can measure the performance of the Sheriff's Office.

**II. SHERIFF'S OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT**

**“Honor, Pride, Integrity”**

Our motto is more than just a saying.  
 These words describe how we have decided to represent ourselves  
 in the performance of our duties.  
 These words hold so much value to us  
 that we have chosen to wear them on our sleeve.  
 They provide reassurance to those that come into our presence,  
 and serve as a constant reminder for us.

Honor involves loyalty to our agency, and to the public  
 we have been called to protect.  
 It requires a servant's humility and a just and merciful heart.  
 It is being self-sacrificial rather than self-serving.  
 It involves an unrelenting commitment to excellence.

Pride describes a feeling that comes from our sense of duty.  
 It does not represent a feeling of self-righteousness or superiority.  
 Rather, it comes from the recognition of the utter importance of our purpose  
 and respect for the authority bestowed upon us.  
 It grows over time as a result of shared experience and increasing trust.

Integrity is what we are expected to possess.  
It involves living by a higher standard.  
It is holding us accountable  
to each other and to the public.  
It comes from being guided not only by what is legal,  
but what is moral, right, and just.

These words are our promise to you.

### III. SHERIFF'S OFFICE ROLE

A. The role of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office in providing effective law enforcement services to the community includes the following:

1. Community Partnership - Crime is a problem that affects all segments of our society, and is a concern of everyone. The Sheriff's Office shall endeavor to involve the community in generating mutual understanding regarding the nature and extent of the crime problem and to involve the community in crime prevention efforts necessary to reduce crime and improve the quality of life. This police-community partnership will enhance the overall success of the Sheriff's Office's efforts.
2. Deterrence of Crime - Although there are certain crimes that cannot be prevented, crimes committed against innocent victims in public places and crimes against property can be deterred by proactive police patrol and involved citizenry. These types of crimes are deterred by the criminal's fear of immediate apprehension or by the increased likelihood of his/her detection. The deterrence of crime requires the investigation of behavior that appears to be criminally directed. The Sheriff's Office shall strive to deploy its patrol forces so as to deter crime and inspire public confidence in its ability to ensure a peaceful environment.
3. Apprehension of Offenders - Once a crime has been committed, it is the duty of the Sheriff's Office to initiate the criminal justice process by identifying and apprehending the offender, obtaining necessary evidence and by assisting in the prosecution of the case. The Sheriff's Office must strive diligently to solve all crimes and to bring offenders to justice.
4. Victim/Witness Assistance - It is essential to our law enforcement efforts that we protect the rights of victims and witnesses. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office shall strive to avoid the traumatization of victim/witnesses by assisting them through an awareness of the psychological trauma associated with their circumstances and providing them with the necessary information regarding resources that are available to them.
5. Recovery and Return of Property - While the actual cost of crime is difficult to measure, it is possible to observe the steadily mounting cost of lost and stolen

property. This loss, as well as the other costs must be borne ultimately by victims. In order to minimize the losses due to crime, the Sheriff's Office shall make every reasonable effort to recover lost or stolen property, to identify its owners, and to ensure its prompt return.

6. Public Service - Because other public or private agencies may be unavailable, the public relies upon the police for assistance and advice in both routine and emergency situations. Saving lives, aiding the injured, locating lost persons, keeping the peace and providing for many other miscellaneous needs are basic services provided by the Sheriff's Office. It is the Sheriff's Office's responsibility to respond to calls for service and to render such aid or advice, as is necessitated or indicated by the situation.
7. Enhancement of the Quality of Life - In addition to dealing with crime, the Sheriff's Office recognizes that it is in a position to address issues impacting the quality of life in the community. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office will seek to proactively identify property or locations within the county which are subject to chronic or persistent illegal activity, or which are the source of nuisance or unsafe conditions. The Sheriff's Office will utilize available resources, including referral to and cooperation with other agencies, to improve such conditions.
8. Fair and Equitable Treatment of All Persons – The Sheriff's Office recognizes its obligation to conduct its activities and treat all persons in a lawful, fair, equitable, and evenhanded manner without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, political affiliation, or personal interest.

By Order Of



Derek Osborne  
*Sheriff*