



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Sheriff's Office Receives \$161,542.26 Grant to Combat Domestic Violence**

In 2017, Sheriff Rick Staly identified Domestic Violence as a community problem and started a Domestic Violence Task Force to find a community driven solution. In October 2017, the task force delivered its recommendations, which included the need for a dedicated detective to focus on Domestic Violence cases.

The Sheriff's Office applied for a grant through the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence to fund a dedicated detective and a crime analyst along with training and community education designed to prevent and improve investigations of domestic violence.

"Domestic Violence is different from other crimes in that the victim knows the offender and is often living with their attacker," said Sheriff Staly. "Preventing Domestic Violence requires a special understanding of the warning signs, the risk potential, the dynamics of the domestic relationships, and the tools and processes needed to decrease the likelihood of the offender reoffending."

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office responded to 667 Domestic Violence incidents in 2016. The 2017-year saw a 7% increase in Domestic Violence related incidents, three of which involved domestic-related homicides. "We're responding to two to three Domestic related calls daily," Sheriff Rick Staly said.

The Domestic Violence Detective and Analyst will only be assigned cases involving Domestic Violence, dating violence, and stalking. They will work collaboratively with the Family Life Center and the State Attorney's Office investigating Domestic Violence cases and providing assistance to victims.

"I believe that the opportunity that this grant is providing to Flagler County is going to make a tremendous difference in the way Domestic Violence cases are handled and the ability to rehabilitate the offenders so that they do not commit these offenses again," Sheriff Staly said. "We will always pursue state and federal grants to reduce the burden on our local taxpayers to fight crime."

The grant is sponsored by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.

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