



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2019

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## **Sheriff Hosts Second Annual "Addressing Crime Together" Public Meeting**

Sheriff Rick Staly held a public meeting on "Addressing Crime Together" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Palm Coast on Thursday afternoon with a full room of community members. Sheriff Staly discussed crime trends in Flagler County, the initiatives the Sheriff's Office has made to improve public service, and revealed new Sheriff's Office initiatives for 2019.



Sheriff addressing citizens at the 2019 'Addressing Crime Together' meeting inside the Hilton Garden Inn.

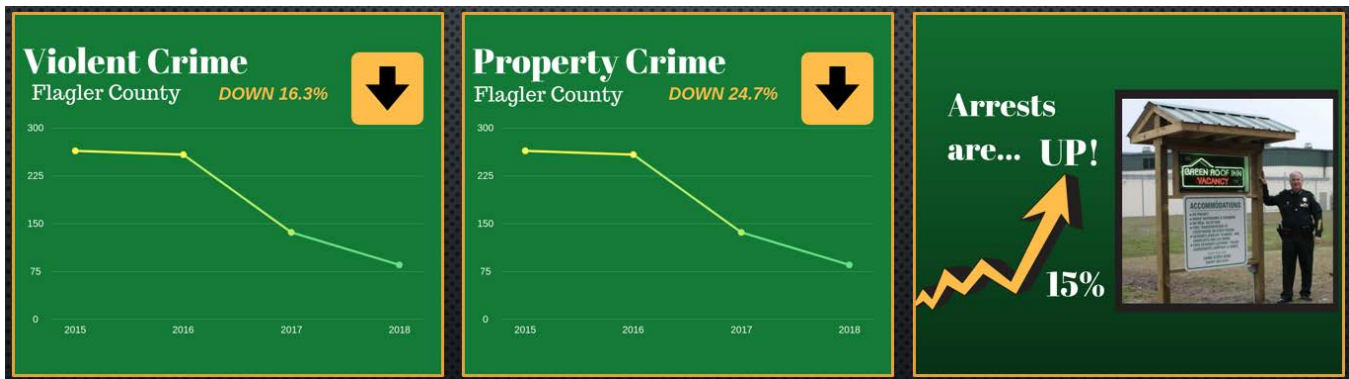
Sheriff Staly spoke on the significant reduction in crime in Flagler County. The crime rate is down 22% from 2017. That is the lowest it has been in fourteen years! Violent Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) is down 16.3% and Property Crime (Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft) is down 24.7%. Arrests are up 15% in Flagler County. And, clearances of reported crime is up more than 32% from 2017.

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Crime in Flagler County dropped 22% from 2017 to 2018. Violent Crime is down 16.3% and Property Crime is down 24.7%. Arrests are up 15%.

“We have a terrific, motivated team serving the community and I attribute the reduction in crime and the increase in arrests to their proactive police work, engaging and partnering with the community, and the new initiatives that we have implemented since I became Sheriff,” Sheriff Staly said.



Sheriff Staly speaking to the crowd inside the Hilton Garden Inn located in Palm Coast.

The “See Something, Say Something” initiative is imperative to keeping the crime rate down. With the community being added eyes and ears to the Sheriff’s Office, we can keep our community safe.

Many crimes can be prevented by taking basic security measures such as locking your doors, removing valuables from plain view, installing motion sensor lighting outside your home, and adding a video security system.

Inmates are now receiving assistance while they are in jail to aid in becoming successful members of

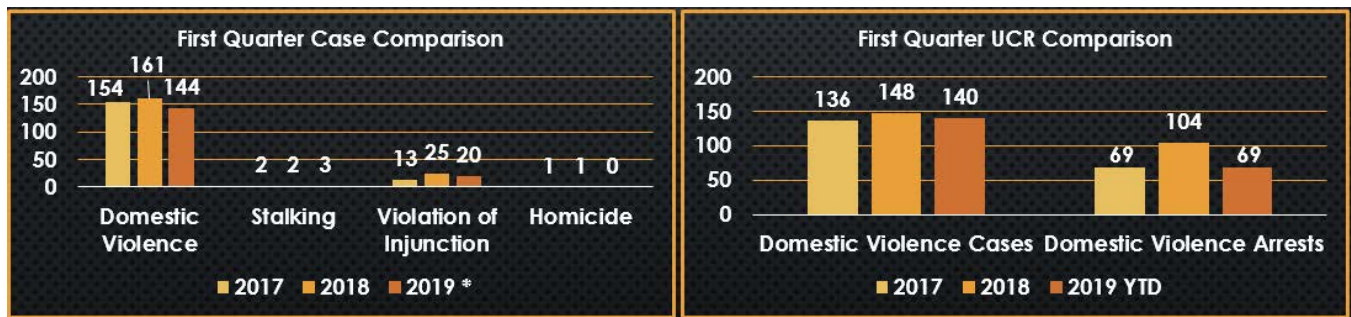
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society when released. The initiative, called STRIDE (Skills, Transitional Support, Respect, Integrity, Direction, and Employment), began in 2017. The program offers services to assist inmates to getting birth certificates and social security cards, provides alcohol and narcotics anonymous programs, allows inmates to work towards achieving their GED, and much more.

The FCSO enhanced our crime fighting ability through the use of license plate readers (LPRs). LPRs continuously monitor and gather data through the use of location specific cameras. Collected information is processed through local, state and federal databases and then sent to units in the field. This technology provides actionable information to our deputies in the field on a daily basis. This has helped FCSO recover 14 stolen vehicles, recover a missing and endangered elderly adult, and arrest 21 offenders.

The Domestic Violence Task Force the Sheriff began in 2017 is continuing to see encouraging results. Domestic violence cases spiked in 2018 as predicted by Sheriff Staly, but the results of the first quarter of 2019 shows a reduction in domestic violence in Flagler County. An aid to the reduction is the addition of an ankle monitoring GPS system designed to equip court-ordered domestic violence offenders with GPS tracking devices. The program is designed to both empower and improve the safety of domestic violence victims by establishing designated exclusionary zones where an offender may not lawfully enter. Defendants pay all costs associated with the monitoring.



Flagler County domestic violence statistics are lower in the first quarter of 2019 than in 2018.

In 2018, the FCSO Citizens on Patrol (COP) provided a total of 38,790 hours of service to Flagler County. These services include Traffic Crash Investigation, Parade and Special Event Security, Traffic Control, vacation house watches, Court House Security and Funeral Escorts. The total value for all volunteer services for 2018 was \$870,692.85!

The inmate work crew program, which uses low-risk inmate labor to improve public grounds and buildings, saved a minimum of \$75,000 in tax dollars in 2018.

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Inmate workcrew van (left) and inmates cleaning up behind the Palm Coast Library (right).

Other achievements include the weekly FCSO video series Fugitive Friday Bingo has had a 55% apprehension rate with fugitives featured on the series. The FCSO has launched a full-time Marine/Beach Unit to ensure greater safety on our beaches and waterways. A COP Marine Unit will launch in June staffed fully by volunteers.

In 2019, FCSO became a four-diamond accredited law enforcement agency with accreditations now in Law Enforcement, Corrections, Communications, and the National Institute of Ethics.



Flagler Beach Chief Matt Doughney, Sheriff Rick Staly, and Bunnell Police Chief Tom Foster.

Anyone wishing to view the meeting by video can visit this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/flaglercounty.sheriffsoffice/videos/2280105118914476?sfns=moreoptionsios>

For a copy of the Sheriff’s complete PowerPoint presentation, please visit this link:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1y8D\\_hqg77CdCl4T0w-niDLRx3jd0IOsU](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1y8D_hqg77CdCl4T0w-niDLRx3jd0IOsU)

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