



Collaborate with local law enforcement

By Matt Bostrom

Values

- Provide safety through community policing
- Practice fiscal responsibility
- Collaborate with local law enforcement
- Encourage diversity
- Connect with youth
- Improve service through technology

Collaboration in law enforcement requires an understanding that no public safety agency is capable of meeting all of its community needs without assistance from other law enforcement partners. For instance, criminals typically ignore city boundaries in an effort to evade apprehension. In addition, large community events and disasters can overburden public safety staff.

The preceding examples illustrate the need for public safety agencies to be willing to serve together, so the needs of the community can be met.

Therefore, a spirit of cooperation, trust, and mutual respect is vital to effective public safety initiatives and partnerships.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) is uniquely positioned to assist individual citizens and neighborhoods, as well as public safety agencies within the county. Whereas a local public safety agency's influence is limited by city boundaries, the sheriff's office is able to provide county-wide support.

This means that the RCSO is able to come alongside and provide seamless support to other agencies. The sheriff's office is also positioned to facilitate and provide joint training and professional development opportunities for all of the public safety agencies within the county.

As officers and deputies train together and refine their skills, the professionalism within the public safety agencies in the county will improve. As professionalism improves, quality of service and esteem from the community increases.

Relationships and partnerships are best established by intentionally teaming up on common public safety initiatives and training opportunities. My experience has taught me that when there is an environment of mutual trust, competent officers and deputies can respond together to provide the highest level of safety in the community.

Pre-established relationships with other law enforcement agencies allowed me to contribute to the Saint Paul Police Department's response to the I-35W bridge collapse. Similarly, a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration resulted in the comprehensive U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The UASI takes a regional approach to all-hazard (natural or human made emergencies) preparation. This means that our metropolitan agencies collaborate on regional public safety planning, resource allocation, and training.

Information sharing and data analysis are also important to providing professional public safety service. Accurate records, real-time access, and information sharing with the community and other public safety agencies have long been the focus of my technology efforts.

I am fortunate to have worked closely with public safety leaders in Ramsey County. Their professionalism and their commitment to service have impressed me tremendously.

Collaboration does not cost more in tax dollars, yet it provides vastly improved services and increased community safety. If elected Sheriff of Ramsey County, I will continue to collaborate with my public safety partners to improve our services. ■

