

DISPATCH

2012 COMMUNITY EDITION



A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

This past year presented our agency with enormous challenges. As many of you know, we've been working diligently for the past several years to drive down crime through "smart" policing tactics. The first part of that strategy is to engage the community in this "good fight". And we have been successful!

But being forced to reduce our sworn manpower by 70+ positions, and physically lay off 48 bright, talented and committed new officers was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do, as your elected Sheriff. The budget woes of our city left me no alternative.

The members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office work hard, every day, to deliver the promise of keeping you, your family, and your property safe by solving crimes that have occurred. We also strive to help you learn the many ways you can get involved and help us prevent crime from happening.

I was excited to report to you in 2011 that our violent crime rate and murder rate had continued on its downward trend for 2010. I am proud to report to you that even though the numbers aren't finalized yet, 2011 may well prove to be our best year in modern record keeping, with regards to the declines in murder and violent crime, overall.

They may not be the larger declines we saw in the past two years, but at 3-5% (where they are projected to fall) it shows this downward trend of the past three years is being sustained. Had those numbers not been dropping, we could have been in serious trouble, as I was forced to make the cuts in our budget and eliminate positions and jobs. I am deeply concerned about the ominous economic outlook for this upcoming budget year (2012-13) and the fact that we are already operating lean, after several years of reducing spending and making cuts.

As I have shared with you all before, I attribute the decline in crime to three things: First, we are an effective law enforcement agency and we run with great efficiency. Outside experts, such as the Matrix Auditing Group, the LEAN consortium, and respected crime experts have made these assertions.

I've worked very hard, along with my management team and the men and women of the JSO, to stay focused on what matters most: ensuring that we are men and women of character; properly deployed; well equipped; and skillfully managed. Like many of you we are continually striving to use our assets and resources in ways that will affect the best outcome, despite very tight budgets.

Secondly, we have effective prosecution. And folks, it is working. Under the leadership of State Attorney Angela Corey the State Attorney's Office is prosecuting more cases, and asking for stiffer sentences in state prison for those offenders who present a danger to this community. Our relationship with the U. S. Attorney's Office is excellent, and our recent federal case convictions have taken some very dangerous criminals off Jacksonville's streets for a long time. Especially in cases involving gun crimes and convicted felons using guns.

And finally, but every bit as important as an effective criminal justice system, is citizen involvement. We know that tips are up. We know this because of how many crimes we solve and arrests we make, as we follow up on information YOU have given us. Our JSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org email address, along with First Coast Crime Stoppers* are valuable, ANONYMOUS tools anyone can use to provide information about crime. Membership in our Sheriff's Advisory Councils is also up AND we have more than 1,000 neighborhood watch groups.

In 2012, I'd like to ask you to CONTINUE to support our efforts to dramatically lower Jacksonville's crime rate by considering the following:

#1 - Get involved with us. If you want to come to a meeting and work with people who are passionate about assisting the Sheriff's Office in our mission, consider joining a Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo).

#2 - If monthly meetings aren't for you, but you still want to assist by being "eyes and ears" in the neighborhood - and interact a bit more with your neighbors - consider



joining (or starting) a Neighborhood Watch group. We also have River Watch if you live on the waterways and Business Watch, if your business and livelihood wants to band together with other nearby businesses.

#3 - Volunteer with us. We have several programs that may appeal to you: School Crossing Guards (great for retirees with flexible schedules); Reserve Officers (who are volunteers with essentially the same training and rigorous standards as our sworn officers); Seniors versus Crime (a partnership with the Attorney General, these trained seniors are assisting other elders in stopping scams and crimes targeting the elderly); and more. Please call 904-630-2160 to learn more about joining us in the Good Fight in 2012.

Again, my most heartfelt thanks for your support and as always, we'd love to hear from you!*

John H. Rutherford, Sheriff Duval County, Florida

* To remain anonymous and receive a possible reward, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS or email them at rewards@fccrimestoppers.com

** Visit www.jaxsheriff.org. Follow us on Facebook at Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and Twitter (JSOPIO). Contact us at Feedback@jaxsheriff.org

CRIME DECLINES in the COMMUNITY PREVENTION EFFORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sheriff's CRIME PREVENTION Walks



Throughout 2011, Sheriff John Rutherford participated in neighborhood walks in the six zones that comprise JSO's jurisdiction. Each walk is viewed by Sheriff Rutherford as an opportunity to further educate citizens about their important role in the fight against crime and solicit their feedback and tips. Visit www.jaxsheriff.org for a schedule of upcoming walks or contact your zone office.

Sheriff Rutherford shares a laugh with a resident during a walk in Zone 1 on September 8, 2011.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday, August 2, 2011, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office employees participated in National Night Out (NNO) events throughout the city to thank citizen activists for their partnership in the fight against crime.

More than 130 NNO events were held, as a way to reinforce the principles and importance of Neighborhood Watch programs in our community.

The 28th Annual National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). This year marked the 25th year that Jacksonville citizens participated in the event.

Once again, in 2012, the JSO will participate in National Night Out, continuing our support of the national initiative. The event will move to the first Tuesday in October (10/02/2012), so residents at these neighborhood gatherings can enjoy more comfortable weather conditions.

The Neighborhood Watch principle is founded on neighbors watching out for other neighbors, and reporting suspicious activity to police. At the time of this event there were **more than 975 Neighborhood Watch programs** in operation in Jacksonville, FL. For more information about Neighborhood Watch Programs in Jacksonville please visit www.jaxsheriff.org.

For more information on National Night Out, please go to:
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/>

To review the 2011 event, go to the JSO website and select **Events** on the left rail, then select **Past Events** and go to the "28th Annual National Night Out".



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo)

- 3,001 members
- 20 locations
- For more information call (904) 630-2160 or visit www.jaxsheriff.org



Police Athletic League (PAL)



- Six locations
- Structured afterschool educational and athletic programs, mentoring, teen leadership programs, and summer camps.
- Serving almost 3,000 children
- For more information go to www.jaxpal.com

Watch Groups

- Business Watches - 895
- Neighborhood Watches - 1094
- River Watches - 16
- For more information call (904) 630-2160



ONLINE CRIME TIPS

Citizens may go to www.jaxsheriff.org to access the **Crime Tips** section on the homepage. This feature allows you to submit a crime tip or report junk/abandoned vehicles and traffic complaints, anonymously, if you choose.

JSO Launches Digital Billboard Messaging



When Clear Channel Outdoor proposed the idea of bringing the media of digital billboards to Jacksonville, they agreed to implement a program of corporate social responsibility, donating space on the boards to various criminal justice agencies at no charge.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was pleased to be included in the messaging opportunity, and joins with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (which issues Amber and Silver Alerts), and First Coast Crime Stoppers.



The JSO launched its first digital billboard on Thursday, August 18, 2011 with message "rotations" on digital billboards around the city.

The JSO will be using the billboards to convey emergent crime information and crime prevention messages to the public.

First Coast Crime Stoppers is the local arm of a nationwide program that is designed to pay rewards for the anonymous crime tips that lead to arrests.




Crime Stoppers partners with local law enforcement agencies, the media, and the community to solve crimes and get criminals off the street.

The toll-free tip line is 1-866-845-8477. All calls are anonymous, and payouts are made without the use of a name.


For more information visit www.fccrimestoppers.com.

Stay Up-to-Date with the Latest News

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has a proactive policy of making timely and accurate information available to the public. In addition, you can view live and taped news conferences and information about wanted individuals at www.jaxsheriff.org. Citizens can also access events and news on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

 "Like" us on Facebook: JacksonvilleSheriffsOffice

 "Follow" us on Twitter: JSOPIO

 "Watch" us on YouTube: JAXSHERIFF

Don't forget to check out the JSO's weekly cable television show, **Signal 94**, which discusses information on wanted individuals, crime prevention tips and much more.

It is broadcast on **Comcast Channel 99** on Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and at various times throughout the week.

Concerned about CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? Become involved with the JSO.



Whether you want to become a member of a Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo), the Community Posse, or participate in a Neighborhood Watch program, the JSO has crime prevention programs designed to help citizens get involved. The programs guide citizens through the steps to create a better community, at a level of participation each citizen is comfortable with. To learn more, or to enroll in one of our programs, please visit www.jaxsheriff.org or call the Community Affairs Division at (904) 630-2160.

The JSO's Citizen's Academy

This program provides citizens an opportunity to learn the inner workings of a major city law enforcement agency. For more information, please go to: www.jaxsheriff.org and use the SEARCH engine to locate the Citizen's Academy page and apply for the 12-week program, offered twice each year.



THE JSO WEBSITE
Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view the JSO website. Your phone will need a (free) QR application to scan these codes.

Our website, **www.jaxsheriff.org**, utilizes the latest technology to provide accurate and current information. Features include streaming video during news conferences, breaking news, JSO reports to the community, a complete news room/archive, and information on how to contact all divisions and units. Using the SEARCH TOOL you will find information about the following topics and services:



#1 Contacting JSO - Need to contact the JSO? In addition to citizens being able to call 9-1-1 for emergencies and 630-0500 for non-emergencies, the JSO is also committed to providing communication opportunities for the deaf and hearing impaired community. 9-1-1 can be accessed using a TTY phone system. DEAF LINK assists police officers in communicating with members of the deaf and hearing impaired community when they are out in the field or at any JSO location. You can also Email us your anonymous Crime Tips and Feedback at JSOFeedback@jaxsheriff.org

#2 Crime Statistics/Crime Mapping - Citizens can easily map crime that has been reported in any area of Jacksonville or link to the most current official crime data available about our community, by clicking on this link. Get the most accurate JSO crime statistics from recognized sources such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

#3 Crime Tips - The Citizen's Online Crime Tip and Nuisance Complaint Reporting System allows you to submit a crime tip, or report junk/abandoned vehicles and traffic complaints at your own computer, privately and conveniently.

#4 Newsroom - This newsroom contains news clips, recent news conferences or taped events (in their entirety), instructions on how to make public records requests, copies of all JSO publications, and much more.

#5 Offender Watch - The JSO maintains "Offender Watch," a free sex offender/predator registry and email notification system, as a public service. Individuals interested in being notified when a sexual offender/predator moves into a specific area of Duval County can subscribe to this service at no charge. This registry is also designed to increase community education, safety and awareness.

#6 Online Crime Reporting - The Citizen's Online Crime Reporting System allows you to quickly and efficiently submit information for an official police report, for certain crimes or incidents, in the privacy of your own home, office or by smartphone. When you complete this report (and after it is reviewed and approved by a police officer) you will be able to print a free copy of your official police report. To use this program the crime cannot have a known suspect.

Reports (located in the center section of the homepage) - Such as Financials, Annual Reports, Police Initiatives and Results