



**Minnesota**  
**SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**  
SINCE 1885

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association Emphasizes Unity, Collaboration, and Shared Responsibility**

St. Paul, MN — [February 3, 2026]

The *Minnesota Sheriffs' Association* (MSA), representing the elected, non-partisan sheriffs of Minnesota, reaffirms its commitment to professional service, accountability, and community-focused leadership. In a time of challenge and reflection, the MSA calls for unity, meaningful collaboration, and an unwavering focus on solutions that bring safer outcomes for all Minnesotans.

*Focus on Agreement — Community Alignment — Stronger Outcomes*

As recent unrest has unfolded across Minnesota, the MSA has been actively engaged in numerous discussions and meetings with local, state, and federal leaders to identify constructive and sustainable paths forward. The Association believes that when agencies and communities work together, understanding and progress follow.

“Our sheriffs, serving as the elected chief law enforcement officers in their counties, are deeply invested in the well-being of their communities,” said MSA Executive Director James Stuart. “We know that communication, cooperation, and compassion must be at the heart of any durable solution.”

The MSA continues to evaluate and support measures that strengthen safety, improve interagency communication, and enhance collaboration across all levels of government. These discussions have centered on actions that ensure secure custody transfers, uphold the public trust, and prevent further unrest in our neighborhoods. The implementation of any measures must also be consistent with the oaths of office taken by all sheriffs and governmental officials to act in ways that are consistent with our laws and constitutional guarantees.

“Cooperation equals safer communities,” Stuart continued. “We must work in concert — law enforcement, elected officials, and community leaders alike — to restore calm, rebuild relationships, and reaffirm our shared commitment to justice and safety.”



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MSA President, Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele said, "As sheriff's, we serve at the crossroads of local trust and statewide responsibility. Public safety is strongest when collaboration is intentional, respectful, and built on shared purpose across all levels of government. Effective collaboration means leveraging each agency's unique authorities and expertise while respecting local control and community expectations. By working together with professionalism and trust, we can meet today's challenges and build a safer, stronger Minnesota for tomorrow."

The elected sheriffs of Minnesota call upon all community members and leaders to act responsibly, to model calm and understanding, and to embrace unity during this pivotal time.

### ***About the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association***

The *Minnesota Sheriffs' Association* (MSA) is a non-profit organization that was established in 1885. Its membership represents all 87 elected sheriffs, their teams, and citizens from across the state by providing numerous support services that focus on professional training, advocacy, legislation and professional services that enhance public safety throughout Minnesota.

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