



# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**From the office of Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart**

13301 Hanson Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

(763) 324-5000

**November 22, 2021**

## **Anoka County Sheriff Stuart Not Seeking Re-Election in 2022**

Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart has announced that he is not going to seek re-election in 2022. He plans to remain in office through his third term which runs through the end of 2022.

Sheriff Stuart said, "The decision to retire was not an easy one because I have developed so many great friendships as well as professional and community partnerships over the past 28 years. Today, our sheriff's office is in a good place, despite a long list of challenges facing our profession. Since I have arrived at retirement age, it is time to consider my options for serving others in new ways."

The complex role of a county sheriff can bring many challenges and sources of stress, but Sheriff Stuart continues to remind others that while there have been many challenges, there have also been many rewards. He added, "I have been fortunate to work with my team to turn difficulties into opportunities for positive change during unrest events and daily operations. I have also been fortunate to be a part of the Anoka County public safety community in which our protectors all work so closely together and understand the core values of community service."

Sheriff Stuart has been very active in his role as the Sheriff of Anoka County. He consistently strives to provide responsive, creative, and transparent professional law enforcement services to the citizens that he proudly serves. His accomplishments include many first in state initiatives and other enhancements to operational, investigative and laboratory services. "The goal is always to creatively provide better services that solve crimes, serve victims and create safer communities", Sheriff Stuart added.

He has held many roles in addition to his job as the chief elected law enforcement officer for the county. Some of those roles include being the past Chairman of the Minnesota North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area group, past President of the Anoka County Chiefs of Police Association, Executive Committee member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Regional representative for Fight Crime; Invest in Kids, past member of the Governor's Forensic Lab Advisory Board, and many more.

In addition, Sheriff Stuart has been active in supporting the unique roles and responsibilities of the office of sheriff. For many years, he served in leadership as a member of the Board of Directors, and then on the Executive Committee for the National Sheriffs' Association. He also served on numerous national committees and was involved in police reform and other national legislative efforts.

Sheriff Stuart remains heavily involved locally too with the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association as an Executive Committee member and will represent the state association as the sheriff's President in 2022. The sheriff said,



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“It is a humbling privilege to be selected to serve our elected sheriffs in Minnesota and our nation. No one has a better overall understanding of the broader community needs, wants, and related responsibilities, than those who protect and serve and report directly to the people.”

Sheriff Stuart also believes in being heavily involved in other local community efforts and has developed many community outreach programs. He has also served as a Rotarian, and a Board member for Hope 4 Youth, Play to Your Strengths, the Front-Line Foundation and MN Adult & Teen Challenge. He also supports many other local groups less formally.

Sheriff Stuart has become known as a national instructor, presenter and speaker who has received many leadership awards and acknowledgements including being nominated for National Sheriff of the year and receiving the national medal of merit three times.

Sheriff Stuart stated clearly, “I know that I couldn’t have done any of this alone. I have been richly blessed with my incredible wife and our three amazing children. They have been there for me and carried a burden over the years that only a law enforcement family could fully understand. In my professional setting, I have been lucky, and our county is very fortunate to have an outstanding team of professionals in every division of the sheriff’s office. This stellar team works hard and make sacrifices every day to maintain the office’s tradition of excellence while striving to provide service that exceeds community expectations. Honestly, God has granted me more opportunities than I could have imagined, but the time is coming for a new chapter.”

He concluded, “Serving as your sheriff is an incredible honor and privilege and should never be taken for granted. The trust between the citizens and their elected sheriff cannot be understated and we see around our nation what can occur when that trust is absent. I am proud to have consistently tried to bring positive, innovative, and responsible public safety services to the county, while working with an amazing team that remains aligned with this vision. I am not finished yet and plan for a strong year of service until my term wraps up at the end of 2022. At that time, I will pass the baton to the next public servant who is fortunate enough to serve this great county as its sheriff. When I do pass the baton, the men and women of the Anoka County Sheriff’s Office stand poised and prepared to continue the pursuit of excellence in alignment with our mission statement; “To protect and serve the community in a manner that preserves the public trust”. In the meantime, I will continue to be honored serving our citizens alongside the outstanding team of professional men and women of the Anoka County Sheriff’s office. They are the best in the public safety business and their efforts continue to make me proud every single day!”

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