



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

www.leoncountysos.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Angela Green-Sherrod

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LCSO Receives International Award for Anatomy of a Homicide Project

The Leon County Sheriff's Office has been honored with the prestigious IACP/Simsi Leadership in Law Enforcement Research Award for pioneering work on the Anatomy of a Homicide Research Project.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recognized Sheriff Walt McNeil and the Leon County Sheriff's Office during their annual awards banquet held in San Diego, California on Tuesday, October 17th, for outstanding efforts in fostering effective collaborations between law enforcement agencies and researchers to improve operations and public safety.

The Anatomy of a Homicide Research Project reflects the Leon County Sheriff's Office's commitment to preventing violent crime by first comprehending its underlying causes. The agency recognized the importance of becoming more data-driven in addressing crime, which led to the initiation of this groundbreaking project. Sheriff McNeil assembled a dynamic team to conduct an exploratory review of homicides reported in Leon County between 2015 and 2020.

Working in collaboration with the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) Research Institute, the project team meticulously analyzed data, revealing valuable insights into homicide victims and offenders, locations of homicides, the timing of these events, weapons used, circumstances, and primary contributing factors. The comprehensive report not only summarized evidence-based strategies to reduce violence but also highlighted effective violence reduction programs from other cities and states, ongoing LCSO initiatives, and recommendations for addressing this issue within the community.

In November 2021, the Leon County Sheriff's Office published the pioneering "Anatomy of a Homicide Report." This report marked a significant milestone, as it aimed to assist in combating violent crime across the county. It was the result of a dedicated team's tireless efforts that had commenced in April 2021, focusing on a comprehensive review of homicide reports from 2015 to 2020. The analysis aimed to uncover commonalities between the people, conditions, and circumstances contributing to past homicides in Leon County.

The impact of this research extended beyond the report itself. In 2022, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with Leon County Government, the City of Tallahassee, and Leon County Schools, established the Tallahassee-Leon County Council on the Status of Men & Boys. This innovative initiative focuses on preventing homicides and non-fatal shootings, improving the quality of life for individuals and neighborhoods affected by violent crime, and addressing the underlying causes of violence.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Walt McNeil are honored to receive the IACP/Simsi Leadership in Law Enforcement Research Award and remain dedicated to understanding the root causes of crime and enhancing community safety.

You can find more details about the IACP on their website the Anatomy of a Homicide report online at www.leoncountysos.com.

Angela Green-Sherrod, Public Information Officer
Office (850) 606-3303

green@leoncountyfl.gov

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