



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCSO Releases Anatomy of a Homicide Report

The Leon County Sheriff's Office today announced the release of a first of its kind report that outlines findings of an exploratory review of homicides over a five-year period in Leon County. The month's long collaboration, known as "Anatomy of a Homicide" yielded recommendations to help curb violent crimes across the county.

In an effort to better understand the commonalities between the people, conditions, and circumstances contributing to the homicides in our community, Sheriff Walt McNeil officially assembled a project team in April 2021 to review the homicides reported in Leon County between 2015-2020.

In collaboration with the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) Research Institute, the project team provided a detailed report of findings related to homicide victims and offenders, homicide locations, the days and months when homicides were most prevalent, weapons used, circumstances, and primary factors. In addition, the report contained a summary of evidence-based strategies to reduce violence, violence reduction strategies and programs utilized in other cities and states, ongoing LCSO efforts, and recommendations for moving forward to address this problem in our community.

"While we may never fully comprehend the circumstances of these events, we will build on what we have learned by advocating for additional research, improved data collection and analysis, increased collaboration and information sharing between agencies, providers, and the community, and solutions which are both evidence-based and community informed," said Sheriff McNeil. "The Anatomy of a Homicide Project was the agency's first step, and we plan to continue to enhance our understanding and collaboration," he said.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office dedicates this report to the victims of the homicides which occurred in Leon County and the families, friends, and neighborhoods impacted by these tragedies. The findings of Anatomy of a Homicide are available on the homepage of the Leon County Sheriff's Office's website, as well as under the ALLin LEON tab on www.leoncountysos.com.



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