



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CAYUGA COUNTY NEW YORK

**Brian P. Schenck**  
*Sheriff*

*Respect ~ Integrity ~ Dedication ~ Community*

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*Undersheriff*

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June 26, 2024

To those we serve,

I am writing to you with the intent to share some concerns that I have about our ongoing ability to continue providing public safety services in a manner that meets your expectations and those of everyone in your local community. As you may or may not be aware, our county government, like most local municipalities, is facing difficult budget challenges. It is likely that cuts to county spending will need to be made as we move forward to avoid significant tax increases.

While I recognize the difficult decisions that must be made as we move forward, I believe firmly that providing public safety services should be our county government's top priority. Making cuts to our public safety budgets should be a last resort, especially during a time when we are facing more challenges than ever. While some members of our Cayuga County Legislature share my position, it appears that a majority do not view public safety spending as a significant priority. This is evident as the majority appears poised to cut our law enforcement budget and keep me from filling critical budgeted positions within our Sheriff's Office before exploring other areas where cuts can be made that do not impact public safety.

These positions are necessary to maintain appropriate road patrol coverage that impacts our ability to reduce crime, its impact on victims, and to respond to emergency calls for service as quickly as possible. In addition, they are needed to safely and effectively maintain our jail while continuing to work on new initiatives that are preparing offenders for successful re-entry back into our community with the goal of reducing recidivism. Most recently, our legislative majority also tabled the filling of a 911 dispatcher vacancy. Our current resources are stretched thin. These positions are critical and if they

and future positions continue to go unsupported by a majority of county legislators, the impact on public safety in your community WILL be negative. As your elected Sheriff, I feel obligated to inform you and all that we serve.

It is my hope that you will share your position on these issues with me as well as with your elected county legislator as I continue pushing to make public safety funding a priority. Please contact me at 315-253-4337 or via email at [Sheriff@cayugacounty.us](mailto:Sheriff@cayugacounty.us) if you would like additional information or wish to share your thoughts.

It is an honor for me to lead your Sheriff's Office and to partner with the professional men and women that work for our agency. Thank you for supporting the work that we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schenck", written in a cursive style.

Brian Schenck  
Sheriff – Cayuga County Sheriff's Office