

HCSO PUBLIC AFFAIRS MEDIA GUIDEBOOK



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CHAD CHRONISTER, SHERIFF

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Dear Members of the Media,

I am Sheriff Chad Chronister, and it is my honor to extend my warmest greetings to each one of you and thank you all for the vital work you do. I believe that open communication and transparency are the cornerstones of a strong, trusting partnership between law enforcement agencies and the media.

In our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, the collaboration between law enforcement and the media is paramount. It is through your dedicated reporting that our citizens stay informed, empowered, and engaged. Your role as storytellers and informers is invaluable.

At teamHCSO, we are deeply committed to fostering a relationship based on trust, integrity, and transparency. Transparency isn't just a buzzword for us; it's a guiding principle. We understand the importance of keeping you, the media, well-informed about our activities and initiatives. By doing so, we uphold our responsibility to the public we serve, ensuring that our actions within the community are shared openly.

I am personally dedicated to ensuring that our partnership with the media remains robust and resilient. Your questions and insights are not just welcomed but encouraged. I look forward to working closely with each of you to strengthen our community through transparency, understanding, and shared responsibility.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the people we serve. Please feel free to reach out to the Public Affairs Team and let us continue this journey together, shaping a safer, more informed, and tightly-knit community for all.

Warm regards,

Chad Chronister
Hillsborough County Sheriff



ABOUT teamHCSO

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office serves a population of nearly 1.5 million people. For more than 175 years, teamHCSO's mission has been to serve, protect and defend the community while preserving the rights and dignity of all. It's a responsibility shared by nearly 4,000 members who are committed to providing effective, efficient, and professional law enforcement, detention and court services while maintaining the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and community service.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction spans more than 1,000 square miles. Hillsborough County borders Pasco, Polk, and Manatee Counties.

While the City of Tampa is located within Hillsborough County, our patrol units do not respond to activity within the city.

Areas within HCSO jurisdiction include, but are not limited to, Northdale, Seffner, Westchase, Carrollwood, Ruskin, Apollo Beach, and Bloomingdale.

You can easily determine whether a location is within HCSO jurisdiction by entering the address here:
<https://gis.hcsotampa.fl.us/publicgis/boundaries/>





Records --- Requests

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has a designated Public Records Division that is responsible for responding to public records requests. This division is comprised of civilians who gather, redact, and produce the requested information.

The HCSO Public Records Division works on a first come first serves basis. The time in which the public records request is fulfilled depends on the nature of the request as well as the amount of requests currently in the queue. Please note, requests that require redactions or body-camera footage do take additional time to fulfill. However, the progress of your request is available to view on the portal.

The most efficient way to submit a public records request is directly through the GovQA portal here:

[https://hillsboroughsheriff.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/\(S\(shj44bjhx3czxiweegt4ske\)\)/SupportHome.aspx?sSessionID=](https://hillsboroughsheriff.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(shj44bjhx3czxiweegt4ske))/SupportHome.aspx?sSessionID=)

CONTACTING THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

● During Business Hours

The HCSO Public Affairs Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During regular business hours, you can reach a member of the PAO by phone or email. We encourage you to contact us via email as it allows us to efficiently address your inquiries. Emails ensure that we have a clear record of your request, enabling us to reference it accurately and work swiftly to provide you with a timely and comprehensive response.

Phone: 813-247-8060

Email: publicaffairs@teamHCSO.com

● After Business Hours

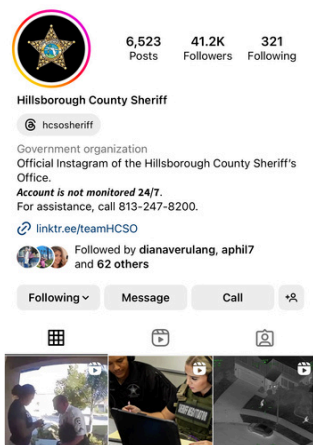
For inquiries outside our regular office hours, we recommend reaching out to us via email for non-urgent matters. Please note that our on-call phone line is reserved for breaking news inquiries and urgent matters requiring immediate attention. For general information, including the time and nature of a call, you can contact our dispatch center directly.

Dispatch Center: 813-247-8200

On-Call Phone: 813-205-4646

GET CONNECTED

Connecting with teamHCSO has never been easier thanks to our active presence on social platforms. We are dedicated to keeping you and our community informed and engaged by regularly posting the latest and most media-worthy events on our platforms. From crime in our community, to exciting initiatives and important updates, our social media feeds are filled with valuable content. This content is also available in Spanish to connect with our Spanish speaking community, ensuring they have access to the same crucial information.



To stay even more connected, we encourage everyone to sign up to receive our press releases and announcements, news, and events, ensuring you stay well-informed and involved in the vibrant HCSO community. Press releases are available in Spanish on the teamHCSO Website.

To sign up for our press releases, simply email: publicaffairs@teamHCSO.com



HCSOSheriff
HCSOSheriffESP

OUR TEAM

ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY ~~ONE COMMUNITY~~

teamHCSOSM Public Affairs Office



Amanda Granit
Chief Communications Officer

Jessica Lang
Assistant Chief Communications Officer

Casey Minuto
Public Relations Coordinator

Hannah Oliveto
Public Relations Coordinator

Carolina Montelongo
Public Relations Coordinator

Caitlin Wilson
Public Relations Coordinator

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STRONGER TOGETHER