



RAMSEY COUNTY
SHERIFF
Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Press Release

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Ramsey County Sheriff Announces SCOAR Program (Serious & Career Offender Accountability & Rehabilitation)

Saint Paul, Minnesota: Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher announced today the creation of a new Sheriff's Office initiative to monitor the charging, bail conditions, prosecution, sentencing, and probation of 300 career criminals and repeat juvenile offenders in Ramsey County.

The program known as SCOAR (Serious & Career Offender Accountability & Rehabilitation) will ensure accountability and transparency of the justice system in keeping the public safe from persons who refuse to change their criminal behavior. The SCOAR Program will intervene to end the cycle of criminal behavior by promoting personal change and ensuring services are provided.

In announcing the creation of SCOAR, Sheriff Fletcher stated:

"Most of these serious offenders will benefit from being separated from their street environment so that they can receive the help they need. Clearly the public expects that these serious repeat offenders will be detained and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. These offenders need intensive correctional help if they are ever going to get their lives back on track.

A correctional setting allows individuals to get help with chemical addiction, mental health, and negative peer influences. It can even help restore family relationships that have been broken because of the crime and addiction cycle. Ensuring the justice system works to keep the public safe while it provides the needed help to the offender is a win-win for the offender and the public."

The SCOAR program will also gather data that will be used to develop future policy and legislation regarding the justice system in Minnesota. Prior to being elected Sheriff, Sheriff Fletcher served as the Commander of the Saint Paul Police Juvenile Unit and was instrumental in the development of the Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction (EJJ) program in Minnesota. EJJ provides additional time and correctional services to support youth involved in the justice system.

Career offenders are defined as individuals who have been convicted of three felony offenses or two violent felonies. Mike Whisler, an Inspector with the Sheriff's Office, will lead the SCOAR Program and liaison with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office to ensure effective prosecution coordination of these serious repeat offenders.

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