



## BIOGRAPHY

# Richard W. Stanek

## Hennepin County Sheriff

Richard W. Stanek is the 27th Sheriff of Hennepin County, and he is serving his third term as Sheriff. In 2007, he was first sworn in, and was re-elected in 2010 and 2014.

Upon taking office in 2007, Sheriff Stanek redirected the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office mission to include fighting violent crime, leveraging technology to prevent crime, and enhancing outreach with diverse communities. These initiatives are conducted in partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, and they have contributed to an historic decrease in violent crime countywide.

Sheriff Stanek created new crime-fighting units at the Sheriff's Office and these units serve law enforcement agencies and communities countywide. The Hennepin County Violent Offender Task Force conducts focused investigations on the county's most violent offenders. The Criminal Information Sharing & Analysis unit works with law enforcement partners to provide analysis on crime trends and criminal activity in an effort to prevent and solve crime.

Sheriff Stanek has brought new awareness to several emerging public safety threats. He coordinated town hall meetings and legislative advocacy to target the heroin epidemic, prescription drug abuse, and human trafficking. In Minnesota, he has led the effort to improve treatment for inmates with mental illness by expediting medically-appropriate care. On the national level, Sheriff Stanek participated in President Obama's law enforcement working group that addressed the intersection of mental illness and gun violence.

A 30-year veteran of law enforcement, Sheriff Stanek began his career in the Minneapolis Police Department; he rose through the ranks from Patrol Officer to Commander of Criminal Investigations. While a police officer, he was elected five times to the Minnesota State Legislature, where he authored the state's felony DWI law. In 2003, the Governor appointed him Commissioner of Public Safety & Director of Homeland Security for Minnesota.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Stanek has created opportunities to connect at-risk kids with positive role models. He founded the Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation, which provides programs for disadvantaged youth and supports Sheriff's Office volunteers. He also serves in leadership roles for local non-profit groups that help youth including Treehouse and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities.

Sheriff Stanek is president of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association. On the national level, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce appointed him to the board of FirstNet, which is developing a wireless broadband network for public safety. He is on the board of directors for the National Sheriffs' Association, and he is the immediate past president of the Major County Sheriffs' Association. Sheriff Stanek earned a Criminal Justice Degree from the University of Minnesota, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Hamline University.



### Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Phone: 612.348.3740  
350 South 5th Street  
Room 6  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

[www.hennepinsheriff.org](http://www.hennepinsheriff.org)