

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the County. Therefore, it is the duty of the Sheriff to set the standard for the rest of the law enforcement in the County. Law enforcement officers are bound by a code of ethics that emphasize integrity, impartiality, respect for constitutional rights, and public trust. Officers must avoid bias, corruption, and personal gain, and are expected to intervene in cases of misconduct by colleagues. None of the prosecutors within the Chippewa County District Attorney's Office believes that Sheriff Hakes upholds these valuable standards.

On December 18, 2023, Sheriff Hakes was placed on Chippewa County's *Brady* List, and advised to avoid actively being involved in any investigations, or handling physical evidence. This decision was jointly made by all of the prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office. A "*Brady* List" is a record maintained by prosecutors to identify police officers whose past actions such as dishonesty, criminal charges, or integrity violations could undermine their credibility in court.

For the criminal justice system generally, and the District Attorney's Office specifically, to be effective the public must have confidence that the actors within the system are acting with integrity and honesty. It is very important that the District Attorney's Office not risk losing the public's confidence in the criminal justice system.

All of the prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office believe that Sheriff Hakes does not meet the basic credibility standard necessary to continue as the Chippewa County Sheriff.


Wade Newell, District Attorney


Scott Zehr, Assistant District Attorney


Sheila Yohnk, Assistant District Attorney


Sara Matthews, Assistant District Attorney


Karl Kelz, Assistant District Attorney


Sawan Talwar, Assistant District Attorney