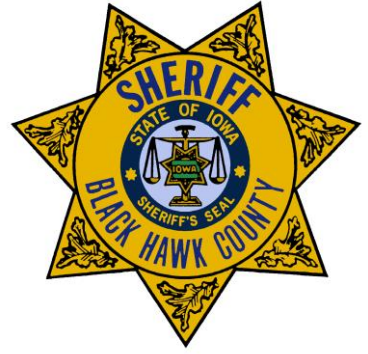


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For Immediate Release

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Sheriff's Office to Participate in No-Shave November as Fundraiser

Beginning today (November 1st), and running through the end of the month, deputies and sheriff's office employees will be sporting a new look to support a local worthy cause. In observance of the No-Shave November movement seen across the nation, the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office will allow employees to "violate" policy and go neatly trimmed, but unshaven for the month to raise money for the Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center.

"No Shave November is a great opportunity for the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office to put a spotlight and focus on an issue and a community partner that all too often operates and experiences community stigma. Mental illness and mental health has been and continues to be one of the biggest issues that face our state and nation." says Sheriff Tony Thompson. "Our agency is proud to partner with Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health on this important issue. So, when you see our officers going a bit unkept this month, remember the important work that Tom Eachus and his staff is doing to assist those experiencing mental illness and help share the message of the importance of talking about mental health issues and how we, as a community, can work together to have positive impact on this issue."

We see this as a natural way to continue the message and importance of focusing on mental health awareness. The month of October was Mental Health Awareness Month and the Black

A CRIMINAL CHARGE IS MERELY AN ACCUSATION AND THE DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.

Hawk County Sheriff's Office has been a leader in both training our staff and championing the statewide efforts at mental health redesign and reform. Our officers have trained in CIT (Crisis Intervention Training), Mental Health First Aid, and Trauma Informed Training, and each year, we review mental health training in-house with our jail medical staff, making this one of the paramount focuses of our department.

Sheriff Thompson served on on the Complex Needs Taskforce for the State of Iowa which developed the multifaceted plan for mental health redesign for the state and is one of two sheriffs in the state who is routinely called to speak legislatively regarding the intersection of mental illness and the criminal justice system. "By working with and supporting the Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center, we hope to further destigmatize the issue of mental illness and stem the continuation of this issue of constantly criminalizing our state's mentally ill population" says Sheriff Thompson.

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