

# **Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office**

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Sheriff's Office Web Site Sports a New Look**

Working with VGM Forbin, the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office has produced a new website with a new look, a new feel, and new accessibility. "We wanted to make sure that our website was usable on tablets, on smartphones and for most any user who wanted to access it" says Sheriff Tony Thompson. This required becoming WCAG 2.1 compliant (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, in accordance with the World Wide Web Consortium's AA Level). It also required programming the content to a multi-tiered, multiplatform approach.

"We are very pleased with the product integration and the approach that we were able to take to ensure that we developed our most highly trafficked areas of our website into a very usable and dynamic resource for our public," Thompson advises. Pages like "Who's in Jail", "Weapons Permits", and "How Do I" features prominently on the site and helps to reduce the number of phone calls and distractions for the daily functions of sheriff's office staff. It is also enables constituents to conduct research, satisfy tasks and resource answers more quickly than having to be routed to several different answering points within the building.

"We've added new photos, blogs, and see this website as a new opportunity to genuinely engage our community in a purposeful and meaningful way" Sheriff Thompson explains, and he looks forward to what the future holds for the technology and the site itself. With several staff working on maintaining content and several automated processes ensuring that the site is kept up-to-date, this is but another effort to ensure the very best in service to the citizens in Black Hawk County.

The website address did not change (though much of the content did): [www.bhcsso.org](http://www.bhcsso.org)

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