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MCSO Traffic Stops Up 70%

Sheriff’s Deputies continue to enforce traffic safety laws to reduce accidents and promote community safety

Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office deputies made 1,822 traffic stops during April, 2019, a 70% increase over the 1,072 stops made in the same month last year. This continues a trend from March, when stops were up 37% year over year (1,521 in 2019 vs 1,113 in 2018).

MCSO initiated a review of its traffic safety program earlier this year at the direction of Sheriff Paul Penzone and MCSO commanders. This initiative included a review of patrol-related traffic enforcement and performance activity; a restructuring of existing staff and resources to provide a dedicated traffic enforcement unit for patrol districts; and implementation of a grant from the Arizona Governor’s Office of Highway Safety for equipment, training, and overtime funding.

The initiative has yielded a significant increase in the ability of patrol deputies to focus on traffic safety as an important aspect of their duties. The goal of the initiative is to continue prioritizing calls for service while also increasing enforcement activity related to traffic to make our streets and communities safer.

“Enforcing the law respectfully and ethically will always be our number one priority, and I’m proud of the work our deputies are doing,” said Sheriff Paul Penzone. “Traffic enforcement serves several important functions for law enforcement: in addition to deterring dangerous driving behaviors and stopping impaired drivers before they hurt someone or take a life, they also provide us with a chance to interact with the community and remind them we are here, looking out for their safety.”

MCSO is the primary law enforcement entity for unincorporated areas of the County, as well as several cities which contract for services. MCSO must work to allocate resources over this very large geographic area while still responding to the same types of calls that a more urban agency does. MCSO currently employs about 500 non-supervisory deputies.