

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group Set New Records in 2020

The Lake County Sheriff's Special Investigations Group (SIG) set records in 2020, seizing nearly \$3 million worth of illegal drugs and 55 illegally possessed firearms, resulting in a total of 350 felony charges.

In June of 2020, Sheriff John D. Idleburg announced that Lake County had been chosen for inclusion in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, operating under the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. This program provides federal support to law enforcement agencies in designated counties with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug production and trafficking, placing an emphasis on high-level drug trafficking organizations.

SIG, consisting of 15 local and federal agencies, was able to increase its efforts due to the additional support resulting from the HIDTA designation. Additionally, SIG offers presentations to school educators, students, community organizations, and neighborhood groups to keep the community closely informed of drug trends, warning signs, and resources available.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Drug traffickers in our communities do nothing but generate violence and destroy lives. Our Special Investigations Group seek and arrest high-level drug traffickers while providing assistance to those struggling with substance abuse disorders."

In 2020 the Sheriff's Special Investigations Groups seizures included:

- Nearly two pounds of heroin
- More than two pounds of crack cocaine
- Five pounds of LSD
- Eight pounds of powder cocaine
- More than 10 pounds of methamphetamine
- More than 150 pounds of illegally trafficked cannabis

“We have seen a massive increase in the amount of methamphetamine being trafficked into Lake County and SIG will continue making it a priority to seek and arrest those trafficking meth, fentanyl, heroin, and other deadly drugs into our community,” added Sheriff Idleburg. “I will always do everything I can to keep our community safe.”

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