

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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Date: October 13, 2021



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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff John D. Idleburg Introduces Jail's New 'Community Bridge Program'

Sheriff John D. Idleburg is pleased to announce the creation of a new jail reentry program, designed to assist inmates that have been released back into our community with continued follow-up from jail reentry specialists.

The new program called the 'Community Bridge Program' provides newly released inmates the ability to continue receiving services for 30 days immediately following their release from custody. These services are available from the Lake County Sheriff's Jail Programming Division and Reentry Division.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "We have learned the first 30 days after being released from custody is a very crucial time period for inmates. We want inmates to have the tools available to be successful members of society and have purpose when they are released from custody, rather than the jail having a revolving door."

In addition to the 30 days following their release, inmates participating in the Community Bridge Program will work closely with a reentry specialist prior to being released. This pre-release work will allow the inmate and reentry specialist to have in-depth, goal-driven conversations focusing on employment, résumé building, connection with Alternative Housing Services, tips for successful reentry, enrollment in health insurance programs, and more. Once the inmate reenters the community, jail reentry specialists will have routine conversations with the person, to ensure they are meeting their goals, and steer them back on path if they veer.

"We will continue listening to the community, hearing from subject matter experts, and giving inmates the tools necessary for reentry into the community," added Sheriff Idleburg. "We are very excited about this program and the potential it has to reduce recidivism in our community."

Some inmates have completed a trial-run of the program and following the completion of the program said:

"I found the program really helpful and it was good to have someone to check in with on what I was working on."

“Having the same person to follow up with who already gave you confidence on the inside, to guide you on the way out was awesome.”

“I wish the program could have been longer. 30 days sometimes isn’t enough.”

“The best part was knowing the person before leaving, it meant there was trust and confidence there.”

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