



Morris Young

Sheriff Morris A. Young was born and raised in Gadsden County where he has passionately served as the Sheriff since 2004. Young graduated from James A. Shanks High School and later attended Chipola Jr. College and Tallahassee Community College Law Enforcement Academy. He started his career in law enforcement as a police officer with the Quincy Police Department where he served for eleven years. Young then became a deputy with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office in 1998. His passion for giving back to the community inspired him to run for Sheriff of the county. Young became the second African American Sheriff in the state of Florida and is currently the longest serving African American Sheriff in the state's history.

Since becoming Sheriff, crime in the county has decreased by over 70%, juvenile arrests have decreased by over 75%, and Gadsden County is sending 65% fewer inmates to state prisons. Young's work has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *American Police Beat* and *The Guardian*, a British newspaper. In 2012, Young started the Annual Rural County Summit aimed at repairing relationships between law enforcement and communities around the country. This summit has been recognized throughout the Nation.

Young has organized programs such as Citizens on Patrol, Keeping Independent Seniors Safe, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Teen Success Academy, DJJ Restoring Families, and Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Re-Entry Program in an effort to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. In addition, he developed the annual Morris A. Young Cancer Awareness Walk.

Young is married to Kathy Wood Young and they have one son, Justin, and a daughter-in-law, Blanca. The Sheriff is often busy in Gadsden County but enjoys spending his free time with family, especially his two granddaughters, Gabby and Maya, of Orlando Florida.