

Dennis M. Lemma

Sheriff of Seminole County, Florida

In 2017, Dennis Lemma was elected Seminole County's 10th Sheriff. As the County's chief law enforcement officer, Sheriff Lemma leads a work force of more than 1,400 employees and manages a \$140 million budget.

In 1992, Sheriff Lemma began his career as a correctional officer with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. He later became a deputy sheriff and, over the course of 28 years, has worked in virtually every position within the agency, serving as the Sheriff's Office primary spokesperson and receiving promotions from the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major and chief deputy prior to becoming Sheriff.

In January 2019, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody named Sheriff Dennis Lemma chair of her Transition Advisory Committee Working Group on Opioid Abuse. As chair, Sheriff Lemma will work closely with Attorney General Moody and others gathering information related to the best practices to stop the influx of deadly opioids, treat addiction, raise awareness and reduce the death toll of this crisis claiming 17 lives a day in Florida.

In July 2019, Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis announced the formation of a drug abuse prevention panel with Seminole County Sheriff Dennis Lemma to serve as chair. The focus of the panel will be to discuss and determine best practices and innovative solutions to combat drug abuse throughout the state, specifically as it pertains to Florida's youth.

Sheriff Lemma was selected in February 2020, for the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice to represent sheriffs on the Business and Community Development committee. In addition, in February 2020, Sheriff Lemma was appointed to represent Florida sheriffs as a member of the All Sheriffs' Authority to address the mental health and substance abuse issues affecting communities across the nation, and its impacts on sheriff's offices.

In April 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Sheriff Lemma was appointed to serve on Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' Re-Open Florida Task Force as a representative on the Agriculture, Finance, Government, Healthcare, Management, Professional Services Working Group.

In May 2020, Sheriff Lemma was appointed to the Workgroup on the Continuity of Court Operations and Proceedings During and After COVID-19. He is responsible for representing Florida sheriffs on behalf of the Florida Sheriffs Association in re-opening our courts to ensure the safety and security functions in our judicial settings.

In June 2020, Sheriff Lemma was elected to the Major County Sheriffs of America Executive Board. The Major County Sheriffs of America is a professional law enforcement association of the largest elected sheriffs' offices dedicated to preserving the highest integrity in law enforcement. In this role, he represents Region 4, which includes all Eastern states.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and graduate of the FBI Academy, Sheriff Lemma holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and master's degree in administrative leadership. He and wife, Diana, have two sons, Dylan and Dayne.