



**Warren C. Evans**  
**Sheriff**

# News Release

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## Evans assigns officers to bring homeless to warming shelter during frigid temperatures

With the weather forecast dipping to below-zero temperatures over the next two days, Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans has directed his patrol officers in the city, along with volunteer Reserve Deputies to assist homeless individuals by offering them rides to a warming shelter.

The effort has been called **Operation HEAT** (Homeless Evacuation Assistance Team) and will concentrate downtown and in the Midtown area of the city, where larger numbers of homeless people congregate because of the number of social service agencies in the area.



Arrangements have been made with the Detroit City Rescue Shelter, located near the MGM Grand Casino to accept anyone wishing to seek cover from the chilling cold over the next two days, Evans said.

"With the bitter cold weather, it is too dangerous to be out for extended periods of time," Evans said. "Many of these individuals end up finding shelter in vacant buildings or abandoned houses that aren't always safe and start fires to keep warm. We want to make sure everyone is in a safe, warm place the next couple of nights."

In addition to the Sheriff's Office DDOT patrol, which covers main thoroughfares across the city around the clock, Evans said he would be assigning four Reserve officers to assist in the patrol and transport the individuals to the shelter. Bus shelters are a common spot for homeless persons to seek protection from the elements, Evans said.

Evans said the patrols will begin at 4PM Sunday and he hopes to have anyone who needs transportation to the shelter by 10PM. The additional HEAT patrols will commence again on Monday at 4PM, if needed, and last until the weather breaks.