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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Sheriff's Office Prepares for Boating Season**

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Madison, WI. May 6, 2019 – The Dane County Sheriff's Office will begin preparing for a busy boating season on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, when they train the 18 deputies that will be patrolling the lakes this summer. The Sheriff's Office has one sergeant and two full-time deputies who make up the Marine and Trail Enforcement year round, but when boating season starts, they recruit many part-timers from within the Sheriff's Office to join them in patrolling and responding to calls on Dane County lakes.

On summer weekends, the Sheriff's Office typically has at least two deputies on each lake to assist boaters and ensure everyone is operating safely. Those deputies will go through an extensive training on Tuesday, so that they are prepared for whatever might come their way. First and foremost, deputies are taught that boater safety is their number one priority. They aren't out there just to write tickets and ruin people's day on the water. But if boaters are operating recklessly, operating intoxicated and endangering themselves or others, the deputies will be there to intervene. In addition, deputies are taught how to make contact with citizens in a different environment; pulling a boat over is not the same as making a traffic stop on the road. The deputies are also taught about new search and rescue techniques and provided medical training that can be used on the water.

As boaters prepare their boats for the season, the Sheriff's Office reminds them to have their boats in good operating condition and check to make sure they have life preservers, a fire extinguisher, working lights and other required equipment before they go out on the water.