



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John W. Mannion

## Mannion secures funding for new Onondaga County Sheriff's Department mental health program

JOHN W. MANNION January 5, 2024

The Onondaga County Sheriff's Department will soon have a full-time health and wellness program to provide comprehensive mental health services to law enforcement and crime victims.

Onondaga County Sheriff Toby Shelley said the program is inspired by a similar wellness initiative in the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. His department just needed the money to initiate it. State Senator John Mannion came through with the \$100,000 cost of the program, out of the state budget.

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*"It's about building resilience, fostering well-being, and ensuring that no one falls through the cracks," Mannion said. "With this funding, we're sending a clear message that everyone's mental health matters. We see you, we appreciate you, and we stand with you."*

Shelley said a full-time mental health professional will offer help to any law enforcement professional in Onondaga County, including town and village police officers, and officers in the Syracuse Police Department.

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*"Cops will not show weakness, but we have weak spots, weak spots in our hearts," Shelley said. "So we need to help those weak spots and those people's hearts."*

(source: [WRVO](#) / By Ellen Abbott)