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**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 21, 2017

**AG Schimel Continues 72-County Tour to Discuss  
Public Safety in Sauk County**

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel continued his 72-county statewide tour to meet with local law enforcement and elected officials this week with a stop in Sauk County on Friday, July 21.

“Meeting with local law enforcement and officials around the state always shows me that while we have a lot of work to do to combat the drug epidemic in Wisconsin, each county has unique battles to be won within this fight,” said Attorney General Schimel. “I’m happy to provide the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) as a resource to communities, and this meeting is critical to making sure DOJ is responding to public safety needs at the local level, because only together can we make our communities safer and stronger.”

“I would like to thank Attorney General Brad Schimel for making this happen and those who attended,” said Sauk County Sheriff Chip Meister. “The discussion was beneficial to all. Many topics were discussed and I think all came away with a better understanding. It’s certainly nice that the A.G. does this to hear what issues are at the local level.”

“I was impressed at how well Brad listened to the concerns of local leaders,” said Sauk County District Attorney Kevin Calkins. “More importantly, he did not then offer politically correct, but clichéd, responses. Instead, he challenged the audience to come up with creative responses to the problems identified while offering DOJ’s assistance. I appreciated his acknowledgement of the strides Sauk County has made in addressing the various issues; he really did his homework! Thanks to Brad and DOJ

for hosting this opportunity to meet with other county stakeholders and address public safety issues in a meaningful and collaborative way.”

Attorney General Schimel and the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) leadership team is meeting with law enforcement and local officials in every county to discuss public safety concerns specific to each county. The challenges faced by law enforcement leaders and the criminal justice system differ from county to county, even in neighboring communities, making it critical for DOJ to be responsive to public safety needs at the local level. DOJ is local communities’ partner in safety, and these meetings aim to discover what resources and efforts DOJ can provide to make Wisconsin safer and stronger.

DOJ financially supports a number of programs to help public safety officials keep the county safe. Sauk County has been provided more than \$116,000 to fund the county’s adult drug court, and with this money will expand the program to those abusing alcohol. The county was also provided more than \$44,000 to fight heroin and methamphetamine.

In attendance at the Sauk County roundtable meeting was Senator Howard Marklein, Representative David Considine, Sauk County District Attorney Kevin Calkins, Baraboo Police Chief Mark Schauf, Lake Delton Police Chief Daniel Hardman, Sauk Prairie Police Chief Gerald Strunz, Spring Green Police Chief Kevin Wilkins, and Sauk County Board Chairman Marty Krueger.

To see what other counties the Attorney General has visited, and where he will going next, go to: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ag-roundtable-map>