

# Sheriff



Sheriff Ed Spooner  
Okaloosa County



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March 26, 2010

## **“TAKE BACK OUR STREETS” INITIATIVE IS WORKING IN OKALOOSA COUNTY** **(PART ONE)**

November 1, 2009 was launch day for a newly formed unit at the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office. On that day, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) established under Sheriff Ed Spooner’s leadership and tasked with aggressively pursuing street level narcotics and prostitution activity, successfully completed its first operation.

**Between November 2009 and January 2010**, the Street Crimes Unit conducted **25 undercover narcotics operations and six prostitution stings**, primarily in the Sylvania Heights and Hetherington neighborhoods of South Okaloosa County. This **resulted in the arrest of 21 individuals, 10 of whom were charged with felony counts of illegal narcotic sales, six with felony counts of prostitution and five with soliciting sex for money.**

Two additional subjects (Jessie Frank Cooley and Demonte Dawson) remain at large with active warrants for felony narcotic sales related to the same operations.

The Street Crimes Unit is part of the OCSO Criminal Investigative Division, operating under the supervision of the Drug Task Force and currently comprised of nine deputies to include one K-9 Officer. The mission of the unit is to seek out, develop and maintain relationships with citizens and community business owners, so as to more rapidly identify both problem areas and individuals. This collaborative effort is working to bring about a reduction in street side criminal activity and return safer streets to Okaloosa County citizens.

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The latest operation involving the "Take Back the Streets" Initiative took place Friday morning as the Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at 222 NW Cypress Street in Fort Walton Beach.

33-year old Cedric Oneal Valentine of that address was charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of narcotics equipment, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, and violation of felony probation.

Members of the DTF executed the warrant around 5:30 Friday morning (March 26th). Inside Valentine's home they found crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia to include a digital scale, baking soda, and a spoon with cocaine residue. The search also turned up two shotguns and a 22-caliber handgun from room where Valentine was located. In addition, investigators found a rifle in the hallway and loose firearm ammunition throughout the residence.

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