



Sheriff Rick Wells
Manatee County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rick Wells was sworn in as Sheriff of Manatee County on January 3, 2017, and is currently serving in his second term. Sheriff Wells was the Palmetto Police Department's Police Chief from 2010 to 2015; and also spent 21 years at Florida Highway Patrol where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sheriff Wells has more than 33 years experience in law enforcement.

Sheriff Wells was born in Tampa, Florida, moving to Manatee County in 1978. He graduated from Manatee High School in 1982; attended Manatee Junior College and has an Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University. He is also a graduate of Saint Leo University, Command Officer Management Program.

In 1991, Sheriff Wells was named the Manatee County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. He received the Manatee County Whitey Knutsen Award in 1991; Unidos Now Visionary Award in 2012; the NAACP Humanitarian Award in 2014, and the Edgar H. Price, Jr. Humanitarian Award in 2016.

Serving as an instructor in his field, Sheriff Wells has taught law enforcement to governmental, educational, and community organizations throughout Florida. He is currently the Executive Director of Manatee County Police League, Chairperson of the Manatee County Law Enforcement Council and Law Enforcement Advisory Board Council for the Manatee Technical College, and a board member of the North Manatee Kiwanis, Replay Advisory Council, and Strength in Action. Sheriff Wells has also served with the Boy Scouts of America, Keep Manatee Beautiful, Manatee Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, and North Manatee Storm Football.

Sheriff Wells is married to Lupita Wells and has three sons.