

Peter Grimyser Commits to a Public Challenge: 27 Days of Safety Habits for Wisconsin Families

Peter Grimyser, a retired Detective/Sergeant from the University of Wisconsin–Madison Police Department, is launching a 27-day personal safety challenge for community members in Madison and beyond.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin Sep 13, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - A challenge built around 27 years of service

Peter Grimyser spent 27 years with the University of Wisconsin–Madison Police Department before retiring as a Detective/Sergeant. He also worked part-time earlier in his career with the Cottage Grove Police Department in Wisconsin. Now semi-retired, he is putting that number to a new use.

Grimyser is announcing a 27-day public safety challenge, one small action for each year he spent in law enforcement. The idea is simple: give people one practical habit to build each day for less than a month, rather than a long list that gets set aside.

"People don't need more information about safety. They need a place to start," Grimyser said. "I picked 27 days because that's how long I served. Each one stands for a year, and each one gets a task that takes ten minutes or less."

How the challenge works

The plan runs in three stages of nine days each, moving from home, to community, to travel.

Days 1 through 9: home and household. Tasks include checking exterior lighting, testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, reviewing who has spare keys, and agreeing on a family check-in plan.

Days 10 through 18: neighborhood and community. This stage asks participants to introduce themselves to a neighbor, learn the location of the nearest fire station, save local non-emergency numbers, and walk a familiar route while paying attention to lighting and sightlines.

Days 19 through 27: travel and daily routine. The final stretch covers sharing travel plans with a trusted contact, keeping a charged phone and backup battery in the car, varying routine routes when possible, and reviewing what to do if a plan changes last minute.

"None of this is complicated," Grimyser said. "What I saw over 27 years is that most problems get smaller when people have already thought about them once, before they're in the middle of one."

Why Grimyser is doing this now

Grimyser has said he does not want to share personal or family information publicly, and this challenge does not ask participants to either. Each day's task is private by design: something a person does on their own or with their household, not something they need to post or prove.

"This isn't about performance," he said. "It's about having a habit in place before you need it."

The timing connects to Grimyser's current volunteer work with the American Red Cross, where

preparedness and calm response to disruption are part of the daily work. He sees the two as related.

"Red Cross work is about being ready before something happens. That's the same idea behind this challenge, just at a smaller, personal scale," Grimyser said.

What participants can expect

The challenge is meant to be self-paced. Grimyser is not requiring sign-ups, tracking, or fees. He is presenting the 27-day structure as a public resource that any household, roommate group, or neighborhood association can pick up and use on its own schedule.

He added that the value is in repetition, not intensity.

"You don't need to do all 27 days perfectly," he said. "If someone finishes even half of these and keeps three or four as habits, that's a win. That's how real change happens, one small routine at a time."

Grimyser has framed the challenge as a one-time offering tied to this specific number of years, rather than an annual event. He said he built it from what he saw work, and what he saw people skip, over nearly three decades of responding to situations where a little preparation would have helped.

"I spent a career walking into situations after something went wrong," he said. "This is my attempt to help people get a few steps ahead of that."

About Peter Grimyser

[Peter Grimyser](#) is a security and investigations professional based in Madison, Wisconsin. He spent 27 years with the University of Wisconsin–Madison Police Department, retiring as Detective/Sergeant, and previously worked part-time with the Cottage Grove Police Department in Wisconsin. He holds a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice from Marian University, earned in 1998. Grimyser is now semi-retired and volunteers with the American Red Cross.

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