



2016-07

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS OF THE
DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is concerned with the welfare of citizens and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live and work in communities where drug abuse is not accepted nor are citizens subjected to the adverse effects of drug abuse;

WHEREAS, a growing number of states have legalized medical or recreational marijuana, drugged driving will likely continue to increase across the United States at an alarming rate; furthermore, the nonmedical use of prescription drugs is now the second most prevalent form of illicit drug abuse in the United States.¹

WHEREAS, law enforcement, various medical doctors, research psychologists and other medical professionals developed a simple, standardized procedure for recognizing drug influence and impairment and their efforts culminated in the development of a multi-step protocol and the DRE program²;

WHEREAS, the DRE is a well-recognized asset to improving highway safety and detecting the signs, symptoms and effects of drug use;

WHEREAS, the dangers of illegal drugs, including marijuana, and the threat to public safety caused by their use in terms of highway safety, criminal activity, and domestic violence are well-documented³;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Sheriffs' Association supports the efforts of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police as a successful tool for safer communities and an increased quality of life in those communities; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Sheriffs' Association's Traffic Safety Committee encourages the Office of Sheriff to partner with the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program to offer its support through its jail intake system as adequate locations for conducting local, regional, and in-state

DRE evaluations as a critical component of field certification training and provide necessary volume of suspected drug-impaired subjects (see best practices guide for additional information) to DRE candidates as a means to save time and resources for new DRE evaluators.

¹The White House. *National Drug Control Strategy* (February 2009). <http://www.globalsecurity.org/security/library/policy/national/ndcs2009.pdf> (accessed February 5, 2014).

²The International Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, "About DECP," <http://www.decp.org/about> (accessed February 5, 2014).

³National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. U.S. Department of Transportation. "Drug Involvement of Fatally Injured Drivers: A Brief Statistical Summary." November 2010. (<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811415.pdf>)