



2018-11

THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES AND SUPPORTS RESULTS-BASED SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS OR SOLVE THE MULTITUDE OF CHALLENGES THAT INNEFFECTIVE BORDER SECURITY HAS CAUSED OUR NATION

WHEREAS, local solutions and programs are no longer a thought, but a reality for bringing relief to our citizens who consciously choose to live near our international boundaries; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement is best suited to understand their geographic community needs and solutions based on the expectations of their citizens. Community policing begins and succeeds at the local level; and

WHEREAS, no longer are the border problems and issues we face confined to the international border communities, these problems and issues have now spread across the United States and impacted agencies and budgets in every state of our nation; and

WHEREAS, sheriffs maintain that it is our constitutional and statutory duty to protect and secure the freedoms and liberties of our citizens, with or without the help of our federal and state law enforcement partners/policy makers; and

WHEREAS, having the immediate experience of living and working as sheriffs in our respective counties border security has been a continuous educational lesson. Not only have we witnessed the escalation of violence by these assailants on our citizens, we have also seen the successes that can be accomplished through a coordinated tiered law enforcement response with local, state, and federal partners working in cooperation with prosecutorial agencies; and

WHEREAS, our successes as engaged sheriffs were based upon:

- Frequent and direct communication with all local, state and federal agencies;
- Common goals that address real issues;
- Working on these issues at the local level;
- 100% Consequence delivery and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, this turnaround can be attributed to four critical developments:

- 1) Significant upgrades in tactical infrastructure;
- 2) Increased manpower for United States Border Patrol;
- 3) The implementation of Operation Streamline, which created a program designed for the 100% prosecution of illegal immigrants apprehended that are involved in criminal activity;

- 4) The implementation of Operation Stonegarden, which created partnerships with Federal and local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, working with limited budgets and staffing, sheriffs struggle to find ways to maintain the quality of life and safety for those they serve and to deter those who cross our borders to promote their criminal enterprises and activities. Unfortunately, sheriffs witness a lack of engagement, communication and coordination from the state level with sheriffs who have spent their careers knowing what is needed and are ignored; and

WHEREAS, the federal government needs to look at a change in engagement on how best to address border security; and

WHEREAS, sheriffs support reasonable criminal background checks for all granted citizenship; and

WHEREAS, sheriffs support equitable and fair cost sharing to all non-federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, sheriffs that detain illegal criminal aliens and honor ICE detainers shall be indemnified under civil law and tort law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports this administration's change in the "because we have always done it that way" mentality. The National Sheriffs' Association further recommends this administration partnering with sheriffs on border security to ensure the safety first and foremost to our citizens, law enforcement officers and communities.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the National Sheriffs' Association on June 18, 2018, at the Annual Conference of the National Sheriffs' Association, New Orleans, Louisiana. This resolution to remain in effect until June 24, 2022, in accordance with Article XIII, Section 6 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Sheriffs' Association.