



**2009-1**

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE MISSION OF  
THE TREATMENT ADVOCACY CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and its NSI, Education and Training Committee have again reviewed the mission of the Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC), a non-profit organization in Arlington, VA; and

**WHEREAS**, NSA has actively partnered with TAC in the development of protocols and models dealing with officer interaction with those with mental illnesses to insure officer safety and the safe and ethical treatment of those individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of TAC is to eliminate barriers to treatment for Americans who suffer from, but are not being treated for, severe mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, over 40% of individuals who suffer from severe mental illness are not being treated at any given time; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the most serious consequences of failing to treat severe mental illnesses is there are more than twice as mentally ill individuals in jails than any other facility, for longer periods of time than other incarcerated individuals, and more than one million people are admitted, with severe mental illnesses, to jails; and

**WHEREAS**, the consequences of non-treatment, including incarceration, suicide, homelessness, victimization and violence, can be prevented by having laws based on a "need for treatment" standard instead of a "dangerous" standard for those who refuse treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, some states, such as Florida, have enacted tougher laws allowing court-ordered treatment in the community for individuals in need of treatment; and now

**RESOLVED**, that the National Sheriffs' Association does hereby: supports the enactment of a "need for treatment" laws and laws that allow for court-ordered treatment for those who refuse it.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on June 23, 2009.