



2011-6

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES SHERIFFS' OFFICES
NATIONWIDE TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY VEST
WEAR POLICY FOR SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN THEIR
AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), 1,626 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in the past 10 years;

WHEREAS, in 2010, 160 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty – a dramatic increase from the 117 killed in the line of duty in 2009;

WHEREAS, in 2010, the number of law enforcement officers killed by firearms in the line of duty increased by 20%;

WHEREAS, 2011 has been a particularly dangerous and deadly year for law enforcement officers;

WHEREAS, it is essential for law enforcement officers to have, use, and wear the equipment, technology, and resources needed to protect themselves and perform their duties;

WHEREAS, body armor is available to law enforcement personnel to protect the officers from deadly and/or critically disabling injuries;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides grants to state and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of purchasing bulletproof vests;

WHEREAS, due to the increase in violent deaths and assaults against law enforcement officers, Attorney General Holder announced a “mandatory wear” policy for vests must be in place in order for agencies to apply for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant (BVP) for the FY’11 funding cycle;

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) was instrumental in creating the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program through legislation in 1998;

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) has expressed our support for the mandatory wear vest requirement in regards to BVP funding;

WHEREAS, a report by the BJA found that only 60% of law enforcement agencies have a mandatory wear policy for protective body armor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED, that the National Sheriffs' Association strongly encourages Sheriffs' Offices nationwide to create and implement a mandatory vest wear policy and procedures for sworn law enforcement personnel in their agencies, to ensure their safety and security while on-duty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association also strongly encourages Sheriffs to educate their law enforcement personnel on the capabilities of, and the need to wear, protective body armor.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in St. Louis, MO on June 20, 2011.