



2020-01

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

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

WHEREAS, our nation is experiencing a mental health crisis, with over 40 percent of individuals with severe mental illness not being treated at any given time, and

WHEREAS, public mental health services are frequently overwhelmed, resulting in persons with severe mental illness failing to receive the treatment and support services they require to remain in the community and out of the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, our nation's jails have become de facto mental health hospitals for persons with serious mental illness, many of whom also have substance use or co-occurring disorders, 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, TAC has been a long-time partner of the NSA, providing research, raising awareness and leading advocacy efforts to address the nation's mental health crisis and its impact on law enforcement, jails and our broader society, and

WHEREAS, TAC's work to increase funding for needed treatment beds through the elimination of the Institutions for Mental Diseases exclusion and to ensure consistent treatment in the community for those most in need through the enactment of assisted outpatient treatment laws greatly benefits the law enforcement community, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association does hereby: support and approve the work of these organizations, and support their education and reform efforts to decriminalize mental illness treatment and ensure individuals with severe mental illness have access to the treatment they require.