



2017-03

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION
TO LOCAL UNFUNDED MANDATES**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is a trade association with a stated purpose of raising the level of professionalism among U.S. sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the fields of criminal justice and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the NSA supports efforts by local units of government to rely on scientific, evidence-based data when considering the adoption of a local rule, ordinance or law; and

WHEREAS, the NSA supports local cost-effective policies, programs, and practices that prioritize public safety, promote safer communities, and protect citizens from serious criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and local governments need to collaborate to identify and address the needs of the community to ensure the safety of its citizens and to develop an estimate of the cost to enforce a local rule, ordinance or law; and

WHEREAS, the adoption by a local unit of government of a rule, ordinance or law that imposes direct or indirect costs and expenses upon local law enforcement agencies, including local the local sheriff, without a commensurate appropriation of funds to carry out the enforcement of such rule, ordinance or law, constitutes an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates imposed upon local law enforcement agencies, including the local sheriff, to enforce a rule, ordinance or law on local businesses and citizens place unreasonable demands on limited local law enforcement resources and can compromise the ability of local law enforcement to effectively ensure the enforcement of other laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association: (1) recognizes the importance of relying on scientific, evidence-based data to support the adoption of a rule, ordinance or law the intention of which is to improve public health in the most cost effective manner possible; (2) encourages local units of government to collaborate with local law enforcement agencies, including the local sheriff, to determine the cost of enforcing a rule, ordinance or law prior to the adoption of any rule, ordinance or law; and (3) urges local units of government to either appropriate the necessary funds for local law enforcement agencies to enforce a rule, ordinance or law, or to avoid the adoption of a rule, ordinance or law that creates an undue burden upon law enforcement to enforce such rule, ordinance or law on local businesses and citizens.