



2026 – 07

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS TO
PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY AND YOUTH SUCCESS**

WHEREAS, sheriffs across the nation are committed to ensuring public safety, preventing crime, and strengthening community well-being; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the hours immediately after school and during the summer are peak periods for juvenile crime, victimization, and risky behaviors, making these times critical for proactive crime prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, high-quality out-of-school time programs—including afterschool, weekend, and summer learning opportunities—provide safe, structured environments that help youth avoid risky behaviors and engage in positive academic, social, and developmental experiences; and

WHEREAS, participation in out-of-school time programs has been shown to improve school attendance, increase academic achievement, and support social-emotional development, contributing to long-term public safety outcomes; and

WHEREAS, such programs foster strong relationships among law enforcement, youth, families, and community partners, building trust and collaboration that are essential for safer communities; and

WHEREAS, access to out-of-school time programs remains inequitable, with many communities—particularly rural, low-income, and under-resourced areas—lacking sufficient program capacity or funding; and

WHEREAS, investing in prevention, youth development, and community-based supports is a proven and fiscally responsible public safety strategy that can reduce long-term justice system costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Sheriffs' Association recognizes the vital role of out-of-school time programs in promoting public safety, preventing juvenile crime, and supporting positive youth outcomes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Sheriffs' Association urges federal, state, and local policymakers to expand access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs, including through increased and sustained funding;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Sheriffs' Association encourages sheriffs nationwide to partner with schools, community-based organizations, youth-serving agencies, and families to support the development, sustainability, and effectiveness of out-of-school time opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Sheriffs' Association will work to raise awareness of the importance of out-of-school time programs as part of a comprehensive public safety and youth development strategy.