Florida Sheriffs Association 2017 Legislative Priority

Comprehensive Drug Control Legislation
SB 150 (Sen. Steube)/HB TBD (Rep. Boyd)

Support legislation providing the following changes to the drug trafficking statute:

- Add synthetic drugs and Fentanyl, a narcotic drug prescribed to treat severe pain, to the drug trafficking statute.
- Create a manslaughter statute for any drug dealer whose sale of heroin and/or Fentanyl leads to the death of an individual.

Increases in Fentanyl and heroin overdose have become overwhelming to first responders. Between 2013-2015, Florida Medical Examiners recorded a 281% increase in Fentanyl and a 280% increase in heroin caused deaths in Florida. The high potency of Fentanyl, combined with the increased use of heroin is creating an epidemic in Florida that needs to be stopped.
Florida Sheriffs Association Legislative Platform (2017)

Prevention & Youth Services
Civil Citations: Oppose a statewide mandate of issuing civil citations to all juveniles. The Florida Sheriffs Association supports improving the current program with enhanced data collection to ensure deputies have the most up-to-date information available to them before issuing a civil citation.

Law Enforcement
Blue Lives Matter: Support legislation that protects law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

Jails, Corrections & Re-Entry
Early Release: Support Truth in Sentencing laws requiring convicted criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentence.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: Oppose the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences.

Expunction of Criminal Records: Oppose unlimited expunction of criminal records.

State Sentencing: Oppose the sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but the Florida Sheriffs Association supports sheriffs’ ability to individually contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.

Gaming
Gambling: Oppose the expansion of any gambling, including Casino Resorts or Internet poker.

Administration
Florida Retirement System: Support returning length of service to 25 years and the retirement age to 55 years for Special Risk Class employees.

Florida Retirement System: Support legislation to assess the financial impact and necessary funding required for an ad hoc cost of living adjustment for future Special Risk Class retirees.

Budget
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Funding: Support continued funding to train law enforcement officers to safely assess and identify people in mental health crisis and help connect them with community treatment, and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Community Mental Health Funding: Support funding for mental health services that will assist persons after they are released from county jails and have to transition back into the community.

Sexual Offender/Predator Registry Improvements: Support funding FDLE to affect critical updates to the electronic statewide registration process.