WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Association ("FSA") was founded in 1893; and

WHEREAS, Florida Sheriffs, through FSA, are united in purpose and voice for the protection of Florida’s citizens, visitors, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, FSA monitors activities by individuals and organizations which impact the ability of Sheriff’s Offices to carry out the obligations and duties imposed upon them by law; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Florida’s Sheriffs are elected Constitutional Officers, directly accountable to the constituents they serve; and

WHEREAS, term limits for Sheriffs would serve to strip the voters of exercising their right to vote for the best qualified candidates and would prohibit constituents from retaining a Sheriff who has a proven record of providing quality law enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, Sheriffs of Florida are Executive Officers of their agencies and, as elected officials, provide checks and balances to national, state, and local elected and appointed government officials; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(d), voters have the option to vote out or retain a Sheriff every four years; and

WHEREAS, consistent transition of agency heads results in disruption of services and often great turmoil, potentially decreasing the ability to provide quality law enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, mandated turnover is counterproductive to long-term visioning, implementation of best practices, and improvements; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 785 and Senate Joint Resolution 1070 have been filed that would amend the Florida Constitution to allow charter counties to limit the terms a Sheriff can serve; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution was established to create a framework of stable, functional government; and

WHEREAS, the proposed resolution could compromise the stability of the Constitutional framework by reacting to a topical issue of limited concern;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Florida Sheriffs Association adamantly opposes any changes that would undermine or eliminate the Constitutional Office of Sheriff as currently provided in the Florida Constitution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012 by the General Membership of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION:  

Sheriff Ben Johnson  
President

ATTEST:  

Steve Casey  
Executive Director