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**Subject:** Press Conference: DV with Sheriffs  
**Location:** 1st Floor Lobby, Statehouse  
**When:** 4/20/2016 2:00:00 PM - 2:30:00 PM

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### **Brief for Sheriffs Press Conference**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**EVENT:** Domestic Violence Press Conference with Sheriffs to announce pledge commitments from 45 of 46 Sheriffs to implement the Year One Initiative of the DV Law Enforcement Toolkit.

**LOCATION:** Statehouse, First Floor

**STAFF:** Becca

**POC:** Becca

**TOTAL ATTENDEES (including the Governor):** 26 people

**VISUAL:** Poster with list of names and map showing 45 out of 46 counties. See attached.

**HANDOUTS FOR PRESS:** Copies of the Year One Initiative, Pledge, and Reference Guide.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- Governor.
- Republican Sheriff – Suggestions: *Koon from Lexington, an advanced county for DV policies and helpful to Task Force; or Boone from Florence, the current Sheriffs' Association President and helpful to the Task Force.*
- Democrat Sheriff – Suggestion: *Foster from Newberry, helpful to Task Force.*
- Other Possibilities, such as Task Force Leadership (Directors Stirling or Smith)

**ATTENDEES:** Note that 45 of 46 Sheriffs signed, all but Lott – Richland.

1. Sheriff Michael Hunt - Aiken
2. Sheriff Tom Carter - Allendale
3. Sheriff John Skipper - Anderson
4. Sheriff PJ Tanner - Beaufort
5. Sheriff Duane Lewis - Berkeley
6. Sheriff Al Cannon - Charleston
7. Sheriff Steve Mueller - Cherokee
8. Sheriff Jay Brooks - Chesterfield
9. Sheriff L.C. Knight - Dorchester
10. Sheriff Adell Dobey - Edgefield
11. Sheriff Will Montgomery - Fairfield
12. Sheriff Kenney Boone - Florence

13. Sheriff Lane Cribb - Georgetown
14. Sheriff Steve Loftis - Greenville
15. Sheriff T.C. Smalls - Hampton
16. Sheriff Phillip Thompson - Horry
17. Sheriff Barry Faile - Lancaster
18. Sheriff Daniel Simon - Lee
19. Sheriff Jay Koon - Lexington
20. Sheriff Lee Foster - Newberry
21. Sheriff Rick Clark - Pickens
22. Sheriff John Perry - Saluda
23. Sheriff Chuck Wright - Spartanburg
24. Sheriff Anthony Dennis – Sumter
25. Sheriff David Taylor - Union

## TALKING POINTS:

### Opening:

- Today is another great day in South Carolina, because it's a day of action.
- Last year, when I established the Domestic Violence Task Force, I never wanted it just to be about recommendations – it had to be about results.

### Review how we got here:

- Let's think back to last year and how we started this. We began by surveying sheriffs' departments and law enforcement agencies to figure out what was being done right and what could be done better.
- From that data, we worked closely with the Sheriffs' Association to create solutions that were tailor-made to South Carolina.
- We found that:
  - More than 17% of agencies were not required to file an Incident Report on every DV call.
  - Approximately 23% of agencies did not have a policy requiring supervisory review of DV incidents.
  - Almost 30% of agencies do not have a specific policy in place for addressing domestic violence.
  - 50% of agencies do not use specific protocols or checklists when responding to DV calls.
- Because domestic violence is a crime that escalates over time, establishing a pattern of aggression is key, and oftentimes that begins with law enforcement.
- All of these things are important to ensure that incidents are properly documented – when a victim calls 911 and reaches out for help, it's our job to make sure she or he does not fall through the cracks.

### Introduce the Year One Initiative:

- Year One of the Toolkit will bring all of our counties – big, small, urban, and rural – up to the same level by asking our Sheriffs to do two things: (1) Adopt an Internal Policy for Domestic Violence; and (2) Conduct a Needs Assessment for Domestic Violence.
- **(1) The Internal Policy** will ensure that all of our Sheriffs' Deputies are responding to domestic violence incidents in the same way:
  - Requiring officers to file an Incident Report on every DV call;
  - Mandating supervisory review for all DV Incident Reports;
  - Designating an individual to get copies of Orders of Protection from Family Court;
  - Requiring officers to conduct a Wanted Check at the scene of every DV call;
  - Providing officers with a one page, front and back, laminated Reference Guide.
- The Internal Policy will have much more to it, but these were the five must-have standards to lay a foundation to build upon year after year.
- **(2) The Needs Assessment** will mean that every Sheriff is essentially forming a business plan for domestic violence, which will identify immediate, short-term (3-5 years), and long-term needs (5-10 years), including:
  - Number and type of positions dedicated to DV;
  - Amounts and sources of funding dedicated to DV;
  - Brief descriptions of other programs or partnerships for DV;

- Short evaluation of the agency's capacity to operate grants.
- We will not be able to set an initiative for Year Two or Year Three without knowing what resources are out there and how we can lift each county up according to its specific needs.
- Every Sheriff will write its own Internal Policy and will conduct its own Needs Assessment – there is flexibility built right into this Initiative.
- I have never been the type to want to mandate down, but I want to bring everyone up in the way that fulfills local needs towards a statewide objective.

Explain what this means for South Carolina:

- What does this mean for Sheriffs?
  - It means that by December 31st of this year, 45 out of 46 counties will have implemented a policy specifically for domestic violence, and they will have a business-style plan in place for how to take their agency to the next level.
- What does this mean for officers?
  - It means that they'll be better prepared to take a domestic violence call and better able to help victims and save lives.
- What does this mean for victims?
  - It means that the Sheriffs of South Carolina are going to have your back like they've never had before, going the extra mile to make domestic violence a priority.
- What does this mean for South Carolinians?
  - It means that your Sheriffs are responding to your needs. We all know someone who has struggled with this, and we cannot ignore the violence in our homes that is hurting our families. To be a strong state, we must have strong families.

Introduce the next Speakers:

- I want to introduce two Sheriffs who will be saying a few words on behalf of their colleagues:  
Sheriff XX and Sheriff XX.

Closing:

- I have to thank the man who got this across the finish line and did true servant's work in turning the recommendations into reality: Jarrod Bruder, Executive Director of the Sheriff's Association.
- I also have to thank the Task Force members, specifically Director Bryan Stirling, Director Leroy Smith, and Brian Bennett with the Criminal Justice Academy, who got this effort up and running more than a year ago.
- Law enforcement officers play a key role in the life of a victim, and I am so proud that we have 45 Sheriffs who are willing to pledge their name and put their reputation on the line to stand up for victims.
- With the leadership of Sheriffs, like these, we are going to save lives.