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Attorney General Ashley Moody News Release



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—For the second year in a row, Attorney General Ashley Moody opened the doors of her Capitol Office to Sheriffs from around the state. Supporting and defending Florida's courageous law enforcement officers is a major focus of Attorney General Moody's administration, and hosting Florida Sheriffs during Sheriffs Day at the State Capitol to show gratitude is a new annual tradition.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "People may not think about their county Sheriff on a day-to-day basis, but when things go horribly wrong and danger approaches, we turn to these brave men and women of Florida law enforcement to protect our communities. As the wife of a law enforcement officer, I know the risks our Sheriffs face daily, and so I will always take every opportunity I can to say thank you and support the great work these courageous men and women do to keep us safe."

Florida Sheriffs Association President Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said, "Sheriffs greatly appreciate the support we receive from Attorney General Moody. We are continually working together to ensure we have the laws in place and the resources needed to keep our citizens safe. I also am looking forward to working with General Moody on the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice."

This year's Sheriffs Day appreciation event follows the appointment of Attorney General Moody to President Donald J. Trump's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. Attorney General Moody is the only state Attorney General appointed to the Presidential Commission exploring modern issues affecting law enforcement that most impact the ability of

American policing to reduce crime. Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri was also appointed to the task force.

For more on the Commission, click here.

Supporting law enforcement, addressing mental health challenges facing the criminal justice system and combating the opioid crisis are top priorities of Attorney General Moody's administration. Since taking office in 2019, Attorney General Moody has:

- Conducted a statewide series of round table events focused on mental health and Florida's criminal justice system;
- <u>Launched a new comprehensive resource</u> to educate Floridians about the dangers of misusing prescription painkillers and other opioids, such as heroin and fentanyl;
- Chaired multiple meetings of the new Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse in an effort to develop a statewide strategy to identify best practices to combat the opioid epidemic through education, law enforcement efforts, treatment, prevention and recovery; and
- <u>Created a Back the Blue award</u> to highlight law enforcement officers, citizens and organizations taking extraordinary steps to forge positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

For a more comprehensive list of steps taken by Attorney General Moody during her first year in office to reduce crime, enhance public safety and support Florida law enforcement, click here.