



2014-02

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO
REDUCE INSTANCES OF DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE
INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) continues to be opposed to the legalization of marijuana and its derivatives, and;

WHEREAS, NSA is strongly committed to protecting the safety of the motoring public and other road users, and;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that an estimated 10.1 million people drive under the influence of illicit drugs each year,¹ and;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that driving under the influence of marijuana significantly increases the risk of motor vehicle collisions as compared with unimpaired driving,² and;

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System shows that, in cases where drug tests are performed, approximately 25% of deceased drivers test positive for marijuana,³ and;

WHEREAS, training programs have been developed to aid law enforcement in the detection of impaired drivers, including Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training, and;

WHEREAS, these training programs can assist law enforcement in quickly and correctly identifying drivers under the influence of marijuana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports efforts to reduce instances of driving while under the influence of marijuana, thereby reducing the number of motor vehicle collisions, related fatalities, and other injuries caused by such driving.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (May 31, 2012). *The NSDUH Report: State Estimates of Drunk and Drugged Driving*. Rockville, MD.

² Asbridge, M; Hayden, J.; Cartwright, J. (2012). Acute cannabis consumption and motor vehicle collision risk: systematic review of observational studies and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 201; 344:e536.

³ Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Fact Sheet: Reducing Drugged Driving and Protecting Public Health and Safety." *The White House*. N.p., Dec. 2012. Web.