



2012-2

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE BLUE ALERT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, there has been an uptick in assaults and attacks on law enforcement officers across the nation;

WHEREAS, a large majority of states do not have a way to quickly send out information to the public after a law enforcement officer has been killed or seriously injured, giving the suspects an opportunity to avoid apprehension;

WHEREAS, the Blue Alert spreads relevant information about the attacker throughout the state to hinder his or her ability to flee and to facilitate a speedy capture, reducing the threat they would pose on other communities and law enforcement personnel;

WHEREAS, 13 states current have a system in place to notify the public when a law enforcement officer has been attacked or killed in the line of duty and the suspect has not been apprehended;

WHEREAS, the Blue Alert systems currently in place are designed to be compatible with the successful Amber Alert systems already in place nationwide so that new infrastructure does not have to be constructed and enables a quick implementation;

WHEREAS, there has also been a push in Congress to enact legislation to create a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice (DOJ) to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty; establish a national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network within the DOJ, who will be tasked with encouraging states and local governments to develop additional Blue Alert plans; establish voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing such plans; developing protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects; and establish an advisory group to assist states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other entities in initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans.

WHEREAS, NSA strongly supports Blue Alert legislation on a federal level;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports the implementation of the Blue Alert system as it will greatly help in the swift apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured law enforcement officers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages the implementation of Blue Alert systems in all 50 states.

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Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Nashville, TN on June 18, 2012.