



2015 - 08

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS
EFFECTIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) supports efforts to use evidence-based and cost-effective policies, programs, and practices to prioritize public safety, promote safer communities, and protect citizens from serious criminal offenders, and;

WHEREAS, research in criminal justice and juvenile justice systems over the past 25 years has identified policies, programs, and practices that can significantly reduce recidivism and enhance public safety, while saving taxpayer costs, and;

WHEREAS, research in the juvenile justice system has shown that, in general, neither out-of-home placements nor longer lengths of stay in residential facilities reduces recidivism better than other interventions or sanctions, and;

WHEREAS, approaches that effectively address behaviors of juvenile status and delinquent offenders by increasing options for community-based programs can improve outcomes while reducing use and cost of court resources and out-of-home facilities, and;

WHEREAS, it is important for juvenile offenders to engage in interventions, where appropriate, that are likely to reduce their risk of recidivating by using evidence-based assessment, treatment, programming, and supervision, and;

WHEREAS, through effective collaboration with local law enforcement, juvenile courts and corrections agencies, and other youth serving agencies, juvenile justice systems should identify sustainable resources to achieve the greatest public safety and justice reinvestment results;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports and recognizes the importance of using data-driven, evidence-based juvenile justice policy to improve system outcomes; and state and local juvenile justice systems should collaborate closely to reduce recidivism and improve public safety, ensure juvenile offender accountability, and most effectively utilize taxpayer funds.