NATIONAL SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS SHERIFF PAUL FITZGERALD’S COMMENTS ON FIRSTNET

Alexandria, VA – The National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), on behalf of our 20,000 members around the country, lauds Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, a longtime public safety leader and the Sheriff of Story County, Iowa, for his courage and leadership in seeking a review of the First Responder Network Authority’s (FirstNet's) activities.

It is critical that public safety have a leading voice in the development of FirstNet, and Sheriff Fitzgerald should be strongly commended for taking a stand for public safety in his role as a FirstNet board member. Warnings that FirstNet may be off course are very concerning to the NSA, and the NSA encourages that a complete review of FirstNet, as called for by Sheriff Fitzgerald, be undertaken before further progress is made. The NSA stands arm-in-arm with Sheriff Fitzgerald, and will give him all assistance possible as he courageously stands up for first responders’ interests.

A nationwide, interoperable, public safety broadband network is an essential need for public safety and first responders. The National Sheriffs’ Association calls on all stakeholders to support Sheriff Fitzgerald as he fights to keep this program on the proper course, said Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard, Executive Director of the NSA.

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National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) is the largest association of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 22,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety. Throughout its sixty-eight-year history, NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government. NSA also provides management training for sheriffs and their command personnel at the National Sheriffs’ Institute and through other innovative programs, workshops, and seminars. The National Sheriffs' Association, located in Alexandria, Virginia, also oversees the highly successful Triad Program and Neighborhood Watch.

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