

Press Release from the Re-election Campaign of:

Sheriff Mike Chapman

PO Box 1144

Leesburg, VA 20177

[Michael.Chapman2011@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.Chapman2011@gmail.com)

ReelectSheriffChapman.com

## SHERIFF CHAPMAN KICKS OFF RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

To a room of supporters entertained by the theme of the movie “Police Academy”, Sheriff Chapman kicked-off his re-election campaign speaking about Loudoun’s low crime rate and the success of his STEP-Up program – to continuously improve Service, Technology, Efficiency and Professionalism. While the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office has successfully implemented over 400 “Step Up” initiatives throughout the years, Sheriff Chapman focused on three main themes; Crisis Intervention Training, the LCSO’s crusade against opioids, and his emphasis on child safety – from educational programs like the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) to his national award winning School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

Sheriff Chapman noted that Loudoun’s crime rate has dropped 19% since he took office less than eight years ago, and that Loudoun has one of the lowest crime rates of all 23 jurisdictions that make up the DC Metro area Council of Governments (COG); despite being one of fastest growing counties in VA. The sheriff further cited University of VA studies along with studies by the International County Management Association (ICMA) that gives the LCSO consistent approval ratings at 90% or better in most categories measured.

Having a family member who suffered from mental illness, Sheriff Chapman recognized that de-escalation of potentially violent situations through Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) was often the key to successfully dealing with mental illness. He made this an early priority, convening several stakeholder focus meetings with County Mental Health, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, judges, VA Behavioral Health and other community-based groups- all with the goal of forming a better system to dealing with mental health disorders and behavior.

As more and more deputies improved their communication skills, the use of Tasers dropped precipitously. Prior to CIT’s inception 6 years ago, LCSO deputies used their Taser 43 times. The ensuing years showed a dramatic decrease in Taser use from 43, to 17, down to 11-and now with 100% of deputies trained, the LCSO has averaged four or less Taser usages per year. In fact, the CIT program initiated by Sheriff Chapman now trains law enforcement, Fire and Rescue, and private sector personnel throughout the region. Loudoun’s CIT program has received local and statewide recognition.

With the emergence of opioids, Sheriff Chapman was quick to form a Heroin Operations Team (HOT) when heroin began to resurface several years ago. Again, he coordinated efforts with a myriad of partners – Mental Health, Substance Abuse, community-based groups, other local and regional law enforcement,

the DEA and other federal law enforcement agencies as a Task Force, to devise a comprehensive strategy of prevention, education and enforcement; to help mitigate the abuse of drugs on one hand while vigorously prosecuting drug suppliers on the other.

Always aware of the negative impact of drugs on children and teenagers, Sheriff Chapman sponsored the DEA Traveling Museum in Leesburg, scheduled field trips with schools and held forums to help educate parents, teachers and the community, to advance his plan to identify and hold accountable anyone who would sell poisonous drugs to Loudoun's children.

To effectively handle the rising tide of fentanyl that plagued our nation's communities, Sheriff Chapman increased LCSO's efforts to be the first full service sheriff's office in VA to issue NARCAN (a narcotic overdose life-saving drug) to all of its deputies. This immediately resulted in saving lives. Utilizing available technology as part of his STEP-Up strategy, Sheriff Chapman also worked closely with Task Force partners to institute OD MAP – a real time online locator that identifies deadly drug distribution areas. Due to this comprehensive plan, the LCSO was the only jurisdiction in the Baltimore Washington area to see a marked decrease in both overdoses and overdose deaths while many jurisdictions saw increases of well over 50%.

Ever mindful to protect children, Sheriff Chapman mentioned that when he first took office, he expanded the nationally acclaimed DARE program, from elementary schools to middle schools. This he believes, is vitally important to refresh the substance abuse message the children learned in 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Middle School, when peer pressure to use drugs is far more present. The sheriff's program success with DARE in Loudoun's schools was recognized nationally and Sheriff Chapman was awarded DARE's Executive of the Year in 2017. And just this year, the program was again recognized as a "Legacy Award" during the Loudoun County Public Schools Business Partnership awards ceremony. Sheriff Chapman is now a member of DARE's Executive Board.

Keeping the focus on child safety, Sheriff Chapman intends to expand the LCSO's School Resource Officer (SRO) program, currently established in all of Loudoun's middle and high schools, to all of Loudoun's elementary schools as well. It's not surprising that last year, the LCSO was recognized by the National Association of School Resources as having a "MODEL SRO Program". "I want the LCSO to be number one in the nation on child safety! " But added, "we can always do better." Sheriff Chapman wants Loudoun's children to be and feel safe, and to get to know law enforcement officers as friends and mentors.

The sheriff also mentioned quality of life issues he has pursued over the past few years. For example, he successfully demonstrated to the Loudoun Board and Treasurer, the need to eliminate the County vehicle tax stickers. This avoids the burden on residents to place the yearly decals on their windshields, while at the same time, he reassigned deputies from being tax enforcers to more productive community policing roles that greater protects our citizens. He was also the first in Virginia to acquire a drone to save lives through 'Project Lifesaver' technology.

Sheriff Chapman plans to continue work on legislation allowing deputies the discretion to appropriately report minor fender benders. Common sense laws with these type traffic incidents will be of great value to the driving public; paying a small fine instead of having to be cited for reckless driving and being required to appear in court. "I have fought for this the past four years, and believe with we will make this a reality next year," he said.

Sheriff Chapman mentioned the LCSO's nationally recognized reputation for excellence stating, "I was honored to be at the White House to speak with President Trump on MS-13, and was also present with him on stage when he signed the Bi-partisan Opioid bill." He added, "I was also at the White House to

discuss Police-Community relations with President Obama, and asked to present at the Excellence in Mental Health Act Forum with Senators Stabenow and Blunt; and Actress Glenn Close.”

This year, Sheriff Chapman was elected to the Executive Board as the Vice President for Homeland Security for the Major County Sheriffs of America – and appointed as Co-Chair of Homeland Security for the National Sheriffs’ Association. These organizations serve as an influential voice for Loudoun County and national legislation and policy.

“None of this happens by accident,” said Chapman. The sheriff said he could not be prouder of the LCSO. “With the dedication and hard work of our sworn and civilian employees, engagement with the community as a whole; and with my proactive leadership, we will continue to make Loudoun County a safer and better place to live and visit. Quite simply, we work incredibly well as a team!” he added.

The kick off campaign master of ceremony was Clerk of the Court Gary Clemens. The evening featured laughs and performances by “Police Academy” stars and special guests by Bruce Mahler (Sergeant Fackler), and Ms. Marion Ramsey (Sergeant Hooks). Redskin great Charles Mann was also in attendance as were Chairman of the Board candidate John Whitbeck and candidate for Commonwealth Attorney, Ms. Nicole Wittman. A great time had by all!

For more information on Sheriff Chapman, go to [www.reelectsheriffchapman.com](http://www.reelectsheriffchapman.com),