WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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WSSA RESOLUTION #2016-03
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM

Whereas: Western States Sheriffs’ Association represents the Sheriffs of its member States and,

Whereas: Many of the Association member agencies work in partnership with the Department of Justice in task forces aimed at gang violence, other violent offenders, terrorism prevention, and/or drug trafficking and,

Whereas: These task forces and the participating agencies make cases using equipment, training and other resources that are supplied by the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program and,

Whereas: Sheriffs have a reduced ability to sponsor task force costs through other funding sources and,

Whereas: Asset forfeiture is a judicial function which gives defendants due process and has the potential to seize assets that are the result of or involved with criminal activity and,

Whereas: The seizing of assets from criminal activity further limits criminals and criminal organizations from furthering their illegal enterprises and,

Whereas: Seized assets alone fund the asset forfeiture program and current Federal Law prohibits using asset forfeiture dollars to supplant budgets that are otherwise funded;

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Western States Sheriffs’ Association members call on the United States Congress to repeal the portions of the Bipartisan Budget act of 2015 (P.L. 114-74) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-113) dealing with the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program, restoring funding to this program as it was prior to either act.

Hereby resolved this 2nd day of March, 2016 at the annual conference of the Western States Sheriffs’ Association.

Sheriff Dave Brown, President
Western States Sheriffs’ Association

James F. Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)
Executive Director, WSSA