



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Shonda Knight

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LCSO Gears up for its Largest Ever Citizens Academy Class

Tomorrow evening, 40 community members will embark on an enlightening and engaging journey, focused on law enforcement. LCSO's Citizens Academy, Class 37 includes numerous well-known locals. Among them, State Representative Loranne Ausley, Former Football Players Corey Simon and Kez McCorvey and Radio Personality Joe Bullard. "At a time when law enforcement is being questioned more than ever, I wanted get a better understanding of the challenges they face every day," says Simon. The 37th class includes community members with a variety of backgrounds, including attorneys, business owners, retirees and more. Prior to this class, the average class size ranged from 20 to 30 participants. "In addition to publicizing this academy, we also reached out to a well-rounded group of citizens and they responded overwhelmingly with interest, says LCSO Spokeswoman Shonda Knight.

The Citizens Academy is a free, 10 week academy, which meets once a week. The Academy doesn't limit participants to classroom training. Students are given the opportunity to ride with a deputy on patrol, tour the detention facilities and courthouse, attend a SWAT demonstration at the Law Enforcement Academy, and shoot some of the high powered weapons used by deputies.

Community involvement is the most powerful force any law enforcement agency has in the fight against crime. Through the Citizens Academy, citizens become more involved in making Tallahassee and Leon County a better place to live. Although graduates of the Citizens Academy are not qualified for daily street duty, they do acquire a better understanding of the Leon County Sheriff's Office operations and responsibilities. Citizens Academy graduates gain greater awareness and appreciation of the difficult challenges and decisions a deputy sheriff faces every day.

During opening night, participants will be greeted with a presentation from Sheriff Walt McNeil and LCSO's Command Staff.

What: Citizens Academy Class 37 First Meeting

When: Tuesday, August 8, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Leon County Sheriff's Office

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Page 1 of 1

