



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

www.leoncountytso.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Angela Green-Sherrod

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LCSO Receives Nearly \$250,000 Federal Grant for De-escalation Strategies Research

The Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has been awarded a grant of \$249,950 as part of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Community Policing Development - Law Enforcement Agency De-Escalation Grants. The grant approval was made by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) on behalf of U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. This grant will enable LCSO to further its commitment to enhancing community policing by researching and implementing effective de-escalation strategies.

The COPS Office, which focuses on advancing community policing nationwide, recognized the significance of the LCSO De-escalation Research Project, commissioned by Sheriff Walt McNeil, and its alignment with their mission. The primary objective of the project is to obtain actionable data and make a meaningful contribution to this developing body of knowledge. This contributes to LCSO's continuing effort to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

"We are honored to receive this grant and grateful for the support from the COPS Office," said Sheriff Walt McNeil. "This funding will allow us to enhance our efforts to create safer communities and strengthen the relationships between our deputies and the public we serve."

LCSO is dedicated to the principles of community-oriented policing and is committed to finding innovative ways to improve public safety while maintaining transparency and trust.



Angela Green-Sherrod, Public Information Officer
Office (850) 606-3303

green@leoncountyfl.gov

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