MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff Fred W. Brown Announces Central Booking Shared Service

For DUI Arrests

Sheriff Fred W. Brown announced at the February 6 Freeholder Meeting that the Sheriff's Office is participating with the County's Police Chiefs Association in a shared services initiative that will save costs for municipalities by establishing central booking at the County Justice Center for DUI arrests.

Sheriff Brown told the Freeholders, "The Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association is funding two new Alcotest machines that test drivers who may be intoxicated, which we have arranged to be located at the County Justice Center. Local officers will be able to transport suspected drunk drivers to the central location for testing."

In 2017, the State of New Jersey directed that the Alcotest Machine currently utilized for testing suspected drunk drivers would need to be replaced by local Police Departments some time before 2019.

Sheriff Brown said, "The central booking for DUI will eliminate the need for municipalities to purchase the new required equipment that can cost in excess of $25,000 each. Additionally, County Corrections Officers will be available to secure those individuals determined to be inebriated, until someone picks them up, as required by John's Law. This will allow local Police to continue their patrols.

The dedicated machines and central booking will be available to all local Police Departments and the State Police within the county, for use as the primary test machine or as a backup should their machine be made unavailable."

Freeholder Director Matt Holt said, "We greatly appreciate the Sheriff and Chiefs Association working together to achieve this valuable shared service that will have a measurable cost savings to all participating Hunterdon County municipalities."