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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon Sheriff: Lack Of Marijuana Testing Big Problem For Law Enforcement Community

Hunterdon County Sheriff Fred W. Brown has joined with the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) in calling on the state's Acting Attorney General to provide clear rules, under New Jersey's new marijuana law, regarding drug testing for law enforcement officers.

Sheriff Brown said, "There is a severe inconsistency between New Jersey's new law and the federal firearms laws and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) rules, with regard to the use of marijuana, that extends to law enforcement officers and the possession of firearms."

The Sheriff, who has served as Hunterdon County Sheriff for 12 years, was with the Raritan Township Police Department for 31 years and retired after being Chief for seven years, stated, "NJAC has made the Acting Attorney General aware that presently, there is no scientifically reliable and objective drug testing methodology where reasonable suspicion exists that an officer is under the influence of marijuana while engaged in the performance law enforcement duties.

This is troubling to me personally, to the heads of law enforcement throughout the state, and to the public we are sworn to protect."

Sheriff Brown added, "Federal law continues to classify marijuana as a controlled dangerous substance and ATF rules prohibit an unlawful user of any controlled dangerous substance from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms or ammunition. This prohibition appears to extend to law enforcement officers.

The New Jersey law enforcement community is caught in a situation where the law of unintended consequences can have dangerous repercussions for the public and our officers."

Brown concluded, “The state’s legal marijuana law should have been put on hold until these vital issues were addressed. I join NJAC in requesting that the Acting Attorney General move with great dispatch to establish reliable marijuana testing for law enforcement officers.”