Honorable Awards Committee,

It is with great honor that I would like to nominate Sheriff Ken J. Mascara for the FCPA’s President’s Award. Sheriff Mascara has been the Sheriff of St. Lucie County for the past 16 years and in that time has shown a strong commitment to educating and working with the public to provide a bridge between Law Enforcement and the citizens we serve. Sheriff Mascara believes strongly in the mission of Crime Prevention and proves it daily by being personally involved with the Crime Prevention Unit’s mission. Sheriff Mascara has made it a priority to make sure the unit is adequately staffed and any necessary equipment is available. The following are just a few examples of how he leads and supports the Crime Prevention concept.

With the increase of violence throughout the country with regards to shootings both in the work place and in daily life, Sheriff Mascara directed the unit to develop and implement an educational Active Shooter Program. This program was developed to provide the general public with information and thought provoking discussion as to what can happen during an active shooter event. It further serves to provide them with options on how to react if an incident should occur. Since the implementation of the program, Sheriff Mascara takes an active approach and attempts to make it to every class in order to facilitate and answer any questions which might arise before and during the presentation. As a result of this initiative, the office has reached and educated hundreds of citizens and that number continues to grow daily with more requests due to the positive response received from the public.

Sheriff Mascara has also implemented an entirely new team in order to combat the ongoing gang-related crimes within the county. The S.T.A.R. (Strategic Tactics and Response) Team is a highly proactive, rather than reactive, unit made up of six deputies and one supervisor. The Team serves a multitude of roles, with the primary being that of crime reduction through intense enforcement and education. The Team also serves as a continuing bridge between the public and the Sheriff’s Office. This is done through participating in local parades as well as attending the many community events throughout all jurisdictions within the county. As the first supervisor of the S.T.A.R. Team when it was implemented, I can assure you that the team is well received by the public and the work they do through the direction of Sheriff Mascara has made a difference. Since the implementation of the team, shooting incidents within the county have dropped significantly. This is due to the team taking a multitude of guns off the streets and out of the hands of the criminal element.

Through Sheriff Mascara’s efforts, the office purchased a trailer containing sporting equipment and other fun activities. The agency takes the trailer to impoverished areas of the county in an effort to educate and provide a positive outlet for the youth, steering them away from gangs and other criminal activity. Sheriff Mascara, like with every community program, takes an active role during these events and totally immerses himself in the programs, playing ball and socializing with the kids. Also as part of this initiative, Sheriff Mascara holds block parties, providing all of the activities and food for the events. This commitment to the public has shown positive results for both the citizens and members of Law Enforcement.

In addition to the four activities mentioned above, Sheriff Mascara has also established and continues to support the Florida Sheriff’s Association’s Teen Driver Challenge. Sheriff Mascara provides this hands on class to any eligible teen in an effort to give them a positive experience and skills in order to become safe motorists.

Like with many other jurisdictions in Florida, the Sheriff’s Office has an extensive elderly population for which we serve and protect. With this demographic comes a lot of scams and frauds. Sheriff Mascara has made it a priority by implementing several educational programs to prevent the elderly from falling victim to these predators and works with the Attorney General’s Office initiative of “Seniors Vs Crime”.

One last item of note is the fact that Sheriff Mascara actively participates in the annual National Night Out. Unlike with other jurisdictions, St. Lucie County conducts the event by each individual community doing their own, stand-alone events during the night. Sheriff Mascara makes it a priority to travel and spend time at each event – sometimes more than 16 – with the citizens.

It is because of these listed reasons and so many more that I am truly honored to nominate Sheriff Ken J. Mascara for the prestigious Presidents Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgt. John Parow

Crime Prevention Supervisor

St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office