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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Appoints Sheriff to Advisory Council

[Mays Landing]: The Atlantic County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the appointment of Sheriff Frank X. Balles to the Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence (GACASV). The GACASV is a team of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders dedicated to utilizing data and promising practices to recommend sustainable solutions to address sexual violence in NJ. Simply stated, the council develops and promotes statewide best practices to prevent sexual violence and to expand the rights and care of survivors of sexual violence (GACASV Annual Report 2014).

"As a lead agency for serving victims of Sexual Assault, The Women's Center is thrilled that our own Board President Sheriff Frank Balles will be a voice on the Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence," stated Claudia Ratzlaff CEO of The Women's Center. "No one has a more demonstrated history of hands-on support in identifying and seeking solutions to impact community violence than our Sheriff."

"Human trafficking is an issue that has been put on the front burner in NJ and I am proud to be able to contribute to the conversation of how these issues, and so many others, are addressed," stated Sheriff Balles. "In law enforcement we are focused on the criminal, not the victim. Through my work with the Women's Center and the ACSO's partnership with the FBI's Innocence Lost Task Force, we have been able to draw the attention to the victims and the multiple complex issues they face on a daily basis."

"Sheriff Balles' long-time affiliation with The Women's Center and the issues of abuse that are encountered daily, speaks to Frank's passion for caring for the invisible and voiceless victims of domestic and sexual violence," stated radio host and Coalition for a Safe Community member Anne Baker. "Kudos to Governor Christie for his wise choice of Sheriff Balles for this important position."

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