



Bedford County Sheriff's Office

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Michael J. Brown
Sheriff

Committed to Excellence

"PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS" **VIRGINIA LAW ENFORCEMENT TO BE PRESENTED BALLISTIC VESTS**

When: December 5, 2013

Where: Capitol Building, 1000 Bank Street, House Room 1, Richmond, VA

Time: 1:00 PM

Richmond, VA – Bedford County (VA), Sheriff Mike Brown, Chairman and Co-Founder of the Safe Surfin' Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit which provides Internet safety materials for schools, parents and more, has, with the help of Moose International, successfully raised funds to supply six law enforcement agencies ballistic protection which they otherwise would not have access to due to budgetary restraints. Sheriff Brown will personally present these vests to the agency heads of the following VA law enforcement organizations:

Rocky Mount Police Dept, Waynesboro Sheriff's Office, Central VA Community College Police, VA school for the Deaf and Blind PD, Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office, Louisa PD.

Sheriff Mike Brown met a young trooper that had survived being shot three times by a suspected online child pornographer; Brown questioned why the trooper wasn't wearing his vest. The trooper did have a vest, however since he was interviewing with this suspect, whom he had interviewed before, he didn't see the need to put on his bulky, uncomfortable ballistic vest.

This prompted Sheriff Brown to further investigate ballistic use and availability to all law enforcement, in hopes to promote the wearing of ballistics no matter what type of investigation they may encounter. Much to this Sheriff's surprise, he learned that over 220,000 law enforcement personnel in the country, due to budget short falls do not have ANY ballistic protection to wear at all.

Brown, with foundation funding partner, Moose International, began a nation-wide effort to raise funds to purchase ballistic vests for those departments who have but no choice than to allow their officers to work without any protection. With the help of Top Line Armor Systems based in Ohio, the Safe Surfin' Foundation is supplying these life saving ballistic vests to police, sheriff's deputies and college campus police across the country!

"This program has already donated new vests to officers and deputies throughout the country and I pledge to put ballistic vests on as many of our law enforcement brothers and sisters as humanely possible". Brown adds, "I don't know how a councilman or board of supervisor member can sleep at night knowing that their 'protector' is up against the criminal element without this protection!"

Please join Sheriff Mike Brown, his staff, Moose International and representatives from these very appreciative agencies at this presentation event which will include the heads of VA Sheriff's Association and VA Chiefs of Police. This event in Richmond will be the first of many that will put vests on the backs of our law enforcement heroes!

***Special note: Please be there for a surprise announcement about this program from VA Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli!**

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