



Media Release

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FCSO Welcomes 8 New Deputies



**Flagler County Sheriff's Office
Shown are from left, Sheriff Manfre, Brad Stogdon, Leland Dawson,
William Cochran, Sarah Casey, Marcus Dawson, Eric Josey, Grant
Taylor and Domain Thomas.**

Sheriff James L. Manfre welcomed eight new deputies to the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) on Wednesday, totaling 192 sworn officers: 148 road deputies and 44 detention deputies. The class of seven men and one woman will all serve as deputies on road patrol in the Neighborhood Services Division.

As proud moms and dads, boyfriends, girlfriends, fiancées, and young children all watched, Sheriff James L. Manfre performed a swearing-in ceremony. The sheriff told families and friends gathered that the new vision of law enforcement officers is community policing, getting to know residents and listening to their concerns. "I'm very confident that each one of these new deputies will embrace this new vision," Sheriff Manfre said. "This is not a job. It's an avocation. Something you believe in your heart."

And, the sheriff told those gathered that "we will keep your loved ones as safe as we can. I guarantee they will have the best training possible."

The sheriff said he's known Deputy Leland Dawson since 2000, when Leland played baseball as an 8-year-old on his son Alec's team, the Mariners. Through that, the Manfre family got to know the Dawson family and the sheriff credits them with urging him to run for sheriff. Sixteen years later, Manfre was swearing-in young Leland, who is now 25.

Leland Dawson follows the path of his father, Leland V. Dawson, who worked at the FCSO from October 1998 to June 2003.

Wednesday's ceremony kicks off the deputies' careers with the FCSO. The seven men and one woman had to complete more than 700 hours of basic recruit training at a law enforcement academy. Now they will begin seven weeks of in-house classroom training with the Sheriff's Office known as the Field Training Evaluation Program. It will include everything from firearms, camera systems, evidence collection, policies and DUI training to intensive crisis intervention training and more. Then they go on the road for three months' training with a field training officer before they will work on their own as they complete their probationary period of one year.

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