



# News Release

**Alachua County Sheriff's Office**

**Sadie Darnell, Sheriff**

**P.O. Box 5489 Gainesville, Florida 32627**

**Office (352) 367-4050 • Fax (352) 374-1808 • <http://www.alachuasheriff.org>**

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Today's Date: January 19, 2016**

**Prepared by: Sgt. Brandon Kutner**

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**Media Advisory: ACSO to host inaugural Coffee with a Cop event on Wednesday, February 3, 2016. Program offers opportunity to meet local deputies and discuss community issues.**

On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, deputies from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. All community members are invited to attend. The event begins at 8:00 AM on February 3rd at Chick-fil-A located at 3621 SW Archer Rd. Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Alachua County's neighborhoods.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that deputies are unapproachable on the street. Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

"We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our deputies," said Sheriff Sadie Darnell. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships."

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local law enforcement agencies strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve. The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between deputies and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

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**PIO Sgt. Brandon Kutner**  
**Office: (352) 367-4041**  
**Cell: (352) 260-7681**

**PIO Art Forgey**  
**Office: (352) 367-4045**  
**Cell: (352) 538-0861**