



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>



For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: February 21, 2016

Prepared by: Sgt. Brandon Kutner

Release #: 2016-012

Media Advisory: ACSO Partners with McDonald's to Host Coffee with a Cop Events in Gainesville & Jonesville

On Tuesday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 9, 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 events will be held from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM on March 8th at McDonald's located at 1030 E. University Avenue in Gainesville, and on March 9th at McDonald's located at 14124 W. Newberry Rd in Jonesville. 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 better," said Sheriff Sadie Darnell. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships, and we appreciate local businesses, like McDonald's, supporting our efforts by helping us host these sessions throughout the county."

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.

-30-

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

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