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## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sheriff Kicks Off “Safer Communities Campaign” in October**

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – As Sheriff Eddie Farris enters his second year in office, he is pleased to announce the kick-off of his Safer Communities Campaign during the month of October. The campaign will include high visibility patrols, focusing initially on businesses and churches, as well as increased sobriety check points throughout the county. Phase two will include added visibility in residential subdivisions throughout the county with greater interaction between community members and deputies.

“During the past year we have focused on developing our resources, deputies and professionalism. I am proud of our dedicated men and women and all that they have accomplished. We have laid a strong foundation and are prepared to ramp up our activities this year so that we can make our community even safer,” said Sheriff Farris.

Since last year, improvements have been made in the way that Sheriff’s Office deputies patrol the county. It started with the development of a two division/six district patrol map that organized patrols in every area of the county, improving response times and allowing for easier backup when needed. Then, new patrol cars and equipment were added so that deputies were equipped to handle any situation that might arise during their shift. Additional enhancements came in the form of improved communications, training and leadership which led to higher morale and greater professionalism.

According to Major Jimmy Eldridge, Commander of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department Patrol Unit, a special task force has been developed for the Safer Communities Campaign. This group of patrol deputies will be comprised of 5-6 deputies that will be solely dedicated to conducting security checks on businesses and churches and setting up sobriety checkpoints throughout the county. Phase I will take place over the next 30-40 days. “The goal is to focus on two districts at a time until each district has had at least two security sweeps and at least eight sobriety check points have been conducted countywide,” said Eldridge. Phase II will start after Thanksgiving and run through the end of the year.

“We have dubbed this effort ‘Operation Saturation’ because in addition to our regular zone patrols we are stepping up our presence in the community with this special task force. Our goal is to make people feel safer in our community. We are going to start with businesses and churches as well as sobriety check points. We will then include some outreach in residential subdivisions so that we can get to know our residents and their children better and keep them safe.”

Business owners, pastors and community members are encouraged to contact the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office if there is a problem in their area. Enquiries for Operation Saturation patrols should be directed to Major Jimmy Eldridge and Sheriff Eddie Farris at (931) 528-8484.

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