

Sheriff Issues Warning About Mail Solicitation

Newark ‐ Sheriff Armando Fontoura today advised Essex County residents to be on the look-out for what may be a fraudulent fundraising letter issued by an organization listed as the United States Deputy Sheriffs' Association which claims to be headquartered in Wilton, New Hampshire.

According to Sheriff Fontoura, the association alleges to be dedicated to officer survival training and it seeks donations to underwrite its programs. "This organization is not connected with any legitimate police, sheriff's or public safety department as far as we can tell," Fontoura observed.

Charity Navigator, America's leading independent charity evaluator, also gives the United States Deputy Sheriffs' Association very low marks for accountability and transparency.

"Our research shows that this organization spends very little on training programs and almost 85% of the money contributed to them is re-invested in further fundraising," the sheriff noted. "This operation has all the classic earmarks of a scam, pure and simple. The organizers may well be preying upon the good intentions of people who hope their contributions are expended upon police training."

Fontoura pointed out that mail solicitations from the association have been received in the mail in recent days by Essex County residents.