

## Middlesex Sheriff's Office

## Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

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## SHERIFF KOUTOUJIAN NAMED VP OF HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH

December 9, 2011

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian was recently named Vice President of Health and Mental Health for the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association (MSA).

"My fellow sheriffs and I are constantly working for public safety across Massachusetts," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "This includes finding the appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programs for the people in our custody. By doing so, we can help set them back on the right track, prevent recidivism and create safer neighborhoods around the Commonwealth. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important matter."

Prior to becoming Sheriff, Koutoujian was a State Representative from the 10th Middlesex district, elected in 1996. Representative Koutoujian held several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health and Chairman of the Commission to End Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. He was instrumental in crafting the historic universal health insurance reform law, the statewide workplace smoking ban and legislation about new school nutrition guidelines.

In this role, Sheriff Koutoujian will lead the shaping of the MSA's health and mental health policy.

"Given Peter's background, it was an easy decision to select him as the point person for the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association on issues pertaining to health and mental health. As a former chairman of the legislative Committee on Public Health and one of the architects of the state's historic universal health insurance law, Peter brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to bear on these important topics," said Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti, President of the MSA.

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