



**Captain Patrick V. Ledwith** began his **32-year career in law enforcement** at the age of 21 as a full certified, Reserve Officer with the Sarasota Police Department in 1983. He received the Most Active Reserve award in 1984. His enthusiasm and dedication led to a full-time position as a sworn officer with the agency in March of 1985. He has attended Manatee Junior College, Eckerd College, and Saint Leo College where he studied a variety of law enforcement and leadership tracks. He had the good fortune to serve in a variety of capacities and positions with the Sarasota Police Department including; **Patrol Officer, Crime Prevention, Patrol Sergeant, Internal Affairs, Support Services, Patrol Lieutenant, District Commander, Narcotics Commander, and Criminal Investigations Captain.**

Pat has always sought **progressive ways to address crime issues** throughout his career by encouraging community involvement and partnerships. He encouraged officers under his command to utilize problem-solving strategies; realizing arrest was not always the best solution to solving crime problems within the community he served. He worked closely with the community and other criminal justice entities to develop programs such as the Sarasota Police Department Drug Market Intervention, a court diversion program aimed at non-violent youthful drug offenders, and Turn Your Life Around (TYLA), a highly successful prostitution court diversion program, one of the first of its kind in the country.

Pat retired as the **Captain of the Criminal Investigations Division** in May of 2015 and continues his passion for the profession by following current events and researching the latest trends affecting law enforcement officers today. He currently serves as a “member at large” on the **Criminal Justice Academy Advisory Board** for the Sarasota County Technical Institute.