

Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr.
Sheriff's Office
3691 Leeds Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405



South Carolina
Charleston County

Contact: Captain Roger Antonio
Public Information Officer
843-554-2444 (ofc)
rantonio@charlestoncounty.org

PRESS RELEASE

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Sheriff's Lieutenant Accepted into Prestigious White House Fellows Program

(Washington DC) Lieutenant Rita Avila, a Charleston County Sheriff's lieutenant, was recently accepted into the 2019-2020 Class of White House Fellows at the nation's capital. President Lyndon B. Johnson created the program in 1964 "to give the Fellows first hand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs." Its mission is to encourage active citizenship and service to the nation. Sheriff Al Cannon, realizing the potential within his agency, encouraged deputies to apply for this year's session. Lieutenant Avila applied for the Fellowship, competing against applicants from across the country. After multiple interviews, Lieutenant Avila was chosen as one of fifteen Fellows for the 2019-2020 session. She is the only person representing South Carolina and is the only law enforcement officer in the program. Lieutenant Avila said, "*I'm honored to be a part of this esteemed program, and I'm privileged to represent the Sheriff's Office and the Charleston County community.*" Lt. Avila is currently residing in Washington DC on an extended leave of absence from the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff stated that he "*is very proud of Rita's ambition and determination in pursuing this opportunity.*" Sheriff Cannon also said, "*our greatest investment is to support the endeavors of our future leaders in all facets of our communities.*"

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