



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Dear Friend,

I am thrilled to share with you the inaugural newsletter of a new group called *Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration*. Launched on October 21st, the group brings together over 130 top police chiefs and prosecutors from all 50 states to call for an end to mass incarceration. Their message to the country is clear: we must reduce imprisonment, and law enforcement knows from experience that we can do so while keeping down crime.

Law Enforcement Leaders is a project of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, spearheaded by our Justice Program Director Inimai Chettiar. The group launched last week at a widely covered press conference in Washington, D.C, and met with President Obama at the White House.

We believe this new, perhaps unexpected voice can help push forward momentum to urgently address our criminal justice crisis. You can sign up for future newsletters at lawenforcementleaders.org or follow it on twitter at [@lawleadgroup](https://twitter.com/lawleadgroup).

Sincerely,

Michael Waldman

President
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

Law Enforcement Leaders Join Forces to Reduce Crime and Incarceration

On October 21st, over 130 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and attorneys general from all 50 states joined together as a surprising new voice calling for the end to unnecessary incarceration in the U.S. — while maintaining public safety.



Our new group, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration, marks an unprecedented partnership among the nation's top law enforcement leaders to push reforms to reduce incarceration while strengthening public safety. We launched

with a [press conference](#) at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. As reported on the front page of [The New York Times](#), our group plans “to push for alternatives to arrests, reducing the number of criminal laws and ending mandatory minimum prison sentences.” [The New York Times](#) editorial board noted the potential impact of the group: “More than anyone else, the police understand what violent crime looks like. They risk their lives every day. If they can stand up and say that America needs to change fundamentally the way it handles crime and punishment, everyone should be listening.” Coverage of the launch was aired on news networks across the country.

President Barack Obama hosted members of Law Enforcement Leaders at the White House last Thursday for a discussion. **Ronal Serpas**, group co-chair and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department, and **Charles Beck**, Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, urged the president and **Attorney General Loretta Lynch** to work with Congress to pass reforms to reduce imprisonment while keeping the country safe. The event was webcast by [The Marshall Project](#) and Yahoo! News.

“We’re in a unique moment in which, on a bipartisan basis, across the political spectrum, people are asking hard questions about our criminal justice system and how we can make it both smart, effective, just, fair,” said **President Obama**. “I’m encouraged by the fact ... that law enforcement is making this point over and over again – because they have the credibility because of the courage and the hard work and they’re on the front lines.”

In [USA Today](#) **Serpas** and **Garry McCarthy**, group co-chair and Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, wrote, “With momentum for criminal justice reform accelerating, we want to leave no doubt where the law enforcement community stands. We need less incarceration, not more, to help us do our jobs and keep all Americans safe.” On [National Public Radio](#) **McCarthy** added, “There’s only so much room for people being incarcerated, and there’s only so many people who really need to be incarcerated ... Looking at things like diversion versus prison time for narcotics possession I don’t think is that bad an idea.” Watch **McCarthy** and **Benjamin David**, District Attorney of New Hanover and Pender counties in North Carolina, on [PBS NewsHour](#) with Judy Woodruff.



Watch the press conference [here](#) and the White House discussion [here](#). Read more from [The Atlantic](#), [The Boston Globe](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [National Journal](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [more](#) including local coverage in 40 states.

For a full list of members, click [here](#). Members include:

- **Garry McCarthy**, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department; co-chair, Law Enforcement Leaders

- **Ronal Serpas**, former Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department; co-chair, Law Enforcement Leaders
- **Cedric Alexander**, former President, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- **Charles Beck**, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department
- **William Bratton**, Commissioner, New York City Police Department
- **Kay Chopard Cohen**, Executive Director, National District Attorneys Association
- **Benjamin David**, District Attorney, New Hanover County & Pender County, North Carolina
- **Alfred Durham**, Chief, Richmond Police Department
- **Mark Earley**, former Attorney General, Virginia; former President and CEO, Prison Fellowship
- **Sim Gill**, District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah
- **Heidi Heitkamp**, U.S. Senator and former Attorney General, North Dakota
- **Michael Herring**, Commonwealth's Attorney, Richmond, Virginia
- **Walter Holton**, former U.S. Attorney, Middle District of North Carolina
- **James E. Johnson**, former Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Treasury
- **B. Todd Jones**, former Director, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- **G. Douglas Jones**, former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Alabama
- **Cathy Lanier**, Chief, Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department
- **Tom Manger**, President, Major Cities Chiefs' Association
- **Charles McClelland**, Chief, Houston Police Department
- **Kathleen O'Toole**, Chief, Seattle Police Department
- **Melba Pearson**, President, National Black Prosecutors Association
- **Timothy Purdon**, former U.S. Attorney, District of North Dakota
- **Charles Ramsey**, Commissioner, Philadelphia Police Department
- **Eric Schneiderman**, Attorney General, New York
- **Rich Stanek**, Sheriff, Hennepin County, former President; Major County Sheriffs Association
- **Cy Vance**, District Attorney, New York County, New York

In the coming months, Law Enforcement Leaders will engage in a campaign to explain to the public and lawmakers that it is indeed possible to reduce crime while also reducing incarceration, and call on lawmakers to take action. Read the group's *Statement of Principles* [here](#).

Stay Connected

- Visit the Law Enforcement Leaders [website](#) to sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on [twitter](#).
- For media inquiries, contact media@lawenforcementleaders.org.
- For all other inquiries, please contact info@lawenforcementleaders.org.

To become a Law Enforcement Leaders member, contact us [here](#).