

July 13, 2016

Mr. Donald J. Trump
Donald J. Trump for President
725 5th Ave
New York, NY 10022

Sec. Hillary Clinton
Hillary for America
1 Pierrepont Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Trump and Secretary Clinton:

We write to you as representatives of our nation's largest law enforcement organizations. Collectively our membership includes more than 30,000 law enforcement professionals — current and former police chiefs, sheriffs, district and assistant district attorneys, attorneys' general and U.S. Attorneys from all 50 states.

As the presumptive nominees for President of the United States, we hope that you will take into consideration the perspective of law enforcement as you set your policies. We believe there is an urgent need for the next Administration to help promote the public safety of this country, reduce recidivism, and reform sentencing policies.

As the men and women who dedicate our lives each day to protect this country's people, public safety and the administration of justice is our utmost priority. Every day, we are required to make tough judgment calls. Sometimes, that judgment call involves locking-up individuals for a long period of time for a heinous crime that damaged a community. We want dangerous offenders off our streets, and behind bars. We want to make sure the people in the communities we serve are protected. Today we are proud that our country is safer than it has been in a generation, and we work hard every day to ensure it remains that way.

However, we also know that our burgeoning prison population is creating a new public safety challenge. Though this may seem counterintuitive, we know from our experience as law enforcement officials that over-relying on incarceration does not deter crime. As prison budgets have continued to rise, funding for state and local law enforcement has been slashed, negatively impacting innovative work in the field including diversion programs, updating information-sharing systems, and smart policing tactics. With finite prison space, we believe prison should be used for the most dangerous offenders.

Budget aside, law enforcement across the country has shifted to embrace rehabilitation and the opinion that certain individuals in our prison system are serving sentences that are too long for the crime they committed. We also realize that, as we see the same offenders reenter the criminal justice system time and time again, we must be creative and devise innovative programs to reduce recidivism, including job training, addiction counseling, and other productive activities. According to a report from the National Center for State Courts, "Properly designed and operated recidivism-

reduction programs can significantly reduce offender recidivism. Such programs are more effective, and more cost-effective, than incarceration in reducing crime rates.”

As the next president of the United States, we respectfully urge you to make the public safety of this country a top priority. Specifically, we request that you:

- Prioritize funding for local law enforcement to eradicate serious and violent crime in our communities. Stopping violence should be our number-one priority. Too many resources go toward arresting, prosecuting and imprisoning low-level offenders, and those suffering from mental illness and drugs or alcohol addiction, making it difficult for law enforcement to address more serious crime. This leaves us without the appropriate tools to bring the most dangerous criminals to justice. We urge you to commit to making reducing violent crime a priority in your Administration and to target resources for local law enforcement accordingly.
- Support policy changes that appropriately address the burgeoning prison population through thoughtful and sensible measures that protect public safety. These include modifications to sentencing laws that carefully filter out the truly dangerous individuals who belong in prison and out of our communities, while allowing lower level offenders a chance for redemption through alternative punishments that are proven to reduce recidivism and rehabilitate. Such measures allow law enforcement to more effectively protect and serve our country.

By committing to these principles and solutions, you can show your strong support for the law enforcement officials of this country. We also would like to request a meeting with you to discuss how to best keep our country safe. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
David LaBahn, President

Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration
Ronal Serpas, Chairman

Major Cities Chiefs Association
J. Thomas Manger, President

National District Attorneys Association
William Fitzpatrick, President

Police Foundation
Jim Bueermann, President