



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 16, 2016

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Experts available for comment

Top Cop on Trump's Milwaukee Town Hall: Trump's Rhetoric on Rising Crime Is Misleading

Time to Refocus Resources on Violent Crime Rather than Over-Incarceration

In advance of Donald J. Trump's town hall this evening in Milwaukee – the site of renewed police-community tensions – **Ronal Serpas, chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration, which represents over 165 police chiefs and head prosecutors from across the country,** issued the following statement:

"Now more than ever, it's important to have level-headed conversations about crime and the vital relationship between law enforcement and the communities we serve. Mr. Trump's recent claims that our country is experiencing a crime wave are highly misleading. Research shows that crime rates are still at all-time lows, and focusing on recent data without this context ultimately makes law enforcement's job harder. Every police officer wants what every American wants: a safe place to live. We urge our Presidential candidates to take into consideration the voice of law enforcement when making such policy statements. To that end, some of the nation's leading law enforcement groups representing over 30,000 officials [encouraged](#) the candidates to take a smart, data-driven approach to crime that re-focuses resources to address violent crime while reducing the unnecessary incarceration of low-level offenders. By adopting these policies, our national leaders can support methods for police officers and communities to stand together, while more effectively fighting crime."

Serpas has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, having led both the Nashville and New Orleans Police departments, as well as the Washington State Patrol, and now serves as a criminology professor at Loyola. **Last week Serpas wrote on the need to consider crime rates holistically in the [Washington Post](#).** His expert commentary on crime rates, policing, and criminal justice reform has appeared in the [New York Times](#), [USA Today](#), [The Hill](#), on [NPR](#), [MSNBC](#), and [Fox News](#) among other outlets.

To schedule an interview or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com or (646) 755-6126.

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About Law Enforcement Leaders

[Law Enforcement Leaders](#) unites nearly 200 current and former police chiefs, sheriffs, federal and state prosecutors, and attorneys general from all 50 states to urge for a reduction in both crime and

incarceration. We believe that the country can reduce incarceration while keeping down crime, and we support changes to our criminal justice system to achieve that goal. See a full list of members [here](#).

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit www.lawenforcementleaders.org or [@lawleadgroup](#).