



# LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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*Experts available for comment*

## **Law Enforcement Leaders Urge President to Back Sentencing Reform, Spurn More Incarceration as Part of Anti-Crime Agenda**

*Police Chiefs and Prosecutors Release Blueprint for “Law and Order”*

**Washington, D.C.** – Following President Trump’s executive order last week creating a task force on crime reduction, a group of nearly 200 police chiefs and prosecutors from all 50 states [released a five-part agenda today](#) outlining specific steps for the Administration to take to promote public safety. The group, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration, urged the Administration to embrace policies that reduce incarceration rates while strengthening efforts to fight violent crime.

“Maintaining law and order is a principal goal for our country. We applaud this focus and believe this task force could make a positive impact. We urge the Administration to embrace the lessons of recent successful policies. A focus on violent crime works when it replaces a focus on low-level or nonviolent offenses. We’ve learned that incarceration and more prisons is not the answer,” said **Ronal Serpas, former New Orleans Police Superintendent and Founding Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders**. “It’s important that as we address the crime scene in 2017, we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Law and order comes best when we have smart policing. It need not be a synonym for unnecessary arrests, prosecutions, and imprisonment. We know that doesn’t make us safer.” Serpas penned the foreword to the report with **former Dallas Police Chief David Brown, the group’s new co-chairman**.

[Fighting Crime and Strengthening Criminal Justice: An Agenda for the New Administration](#) outlines concrete steps President Trump can take as part of a robust anti-crime agenda:

- **Prioritize fighting violent crime.** As part of the new federal “Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety,” Law Enforcement Leaders urges the President and Attorney General to target federal resources toward preventing violent crime specifically, which poses the biggest threat, instead of over-resourcing efforts to fight lower-level drug crimes and non-violent crimes.
- **Enact federal sentencing reform.** Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Charles Grassley and House Speaker Paul Ryan plan to reintroduce the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act in coming weeks. Law enforcement strongly supports this bill, which would reduce mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent crime and save \$722 million over the next 10 years. Law Enforcement

Leaders sent a [letter to Congress](#) last week with support for the bill from the major national law enforcement groups — including the Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs Association, National District Attorneys Association, and International Chiefs of Police — representing 58,000 law enforcement officials. Today’s agenda urges Congress to pass and the President to sign the measure this year as a way of reducing recidivism and crime.

- **Increase mental health and drug treatment.** Republican governors have made treatment programs a centerpiece of their public safety efforts. Greater support for these programs will address the key underlying causes of crime, thereby preventing future crime and removing an undue burden on police.
- **Bolster community policing.** The Justice Department provides vital grants to state and local law enforcement to fund “community policing,” which reduces crime while strengthening partnerships between police and communities. A mistrustful community puts police officers at risk. Law enforcement urges the president to invest more funding in these programs.
- **Expand recidivism reduction programs in prison.** Programs to help prisoners returning to society will help them stay away from future crime and out of prison. Law enforcement urges President Trump to support and expand in-prison job training and education programs.

The law enforcement veterans have also requested to meet with [President Trump](#), [House Speaker Paul Ryan](#), and other congressional leaders to discuss how their recommendations will help keep the country safe.

The letters and agenda can be found [here](#).

**To schedule an interview or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at [fiona.druge@berlinrosen.com](mailto:fiona.druge@berlinrosen.com) or (646) 755-6126.**

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### **About Law Enforcement Leaders**

[Law Enforcement Leaders](#) unites nearly 200 police chiefs, sheriffs, district and county attorneys, attorneys general, and U.S. attorneys from all 50 states. For a full members list visit our [website](#).

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit [www.lawenforcementleaders.org](http://www.lawenforcementleaders.org).