



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Police Chiefs & Prosecutors: Treatment Is Key to Solving Addiction Crisis *Top Law Enforcement Officials Urge President Trump & Gov. Christie to Include Police Chiefs on New Commission on Drugs*

Washington, D.C. – Following the White House’s announcement of a national commission on drug addiction and the opioid crisis to be headed by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Law Enforcement Leaders issued the following statement:

“The Trump administration is right to address the country’s drug addiction crisis through treatment,” said **Ronal Serpas, Founding Chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders and former New Orleans Police Superintendent**. “Decades ago we threw drug addicts in prison. Today, we know that will never solve the problem. Law enforcement officers are not addiction professionals, and our country’s criminal justice system is not designed to treat it.

“To truly help people suffering from addiction and increase public safety, we must prevent harsh sentencing and emphasize treatment for all drug crimes, not just opioids. A number of cities have had tremendous success sending nonviolent offenders struggling with addiction to treatment, rather than prison. Diversion programs, like Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program in Seattle, help people get the treatment they desperately need, while dramatically reducing the chances they will return to crime.

“Many police chiefs have a strong record of implementing these diversion and treatment programs. We urge President Trump and Governor Christie to include these chiefs on the new drug commission. We are eager to share our valuable experience with the president and help solve America’s addiction crisis.”

Last month, Law Enforcement Leaders released a [five-part policy agenda](#) laying out how the President and Attorney General can best reduce crime and promote public safety. Among its recommendations, Law Enforcement Leaders urged the administration to increase funding for mental health and drug treatment, and support local efforts to divert nonviolent from the criminal justice system.

To schedule an interview or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Mark Ro Beyersdorf, mark@berlinrosen.com, (646) 200-5295.

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