



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Experts available for comment

Prosecutors & Police: Justice Department's Shift on Criminal Charging Policy is Misguided

Sessions New Policy Will Lead to Shifting Resources Away From Violent Crime Prevention

Washington, D.C. – Attorney General Sessions released a memo today reversing criminal charging policy reforms implemented by the Obama administration, which directed federal prosecutors to concentrate law enforcement efforts on the most serious criminals, rather than low-level drug crimes. Law Enforcement Leaders issued the following statement from **Law Enforcement Leaders member and former United States Attorney for Utah Brett Tolman**:

“To maintain law and order, we need effective policing and prosecution. The Justice Department’s shift to prosecuting and incarcerating more offenders, including low-level and drug offenders, is an ineffective way to protect public safety. Decades of experience shows we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of America’s drug problem. Instead, we must direct resources to treatment and to specifically combating violent crime. This will help law enforcement do our jobs better.”

In addition to Brett Tolman, John Walsh is available for interviews. Walsh served as the chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee from 2015-2016, where he coordinated Justice Department policies, including the Smart on Crime initiative. He also served as U.S. Attorney of Colorado from 2010-2016.

Earlier this year, 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. Its first recommendation calls for the Justice Department to focus enforcement on violent and serious crimes.

To schedule an interview with Tolman or Walsh, please contact Mark Ro Beyersdorf at mark@berlinrosen.com or (646) 200-5295

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About Law Enforcement Leaders

[Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration](#) 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](#).

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