



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 10, 2017

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Expert available for comment

Police Chief to Trump: Treatment, Not Incarceration, Must be the Response to Opioid Crisis

Law Enforcement Urges Administration to Heed the Lessons of the War on Drugs

Washington, D.C. – After President Trump declared the opioid crisis a national emergency today, **Ronal Serpas, [Law Enforcement Leaders](#) chairman and former New Orleans and Nashville Police Chief**, issued the following statement:

“President Trump’s declaration today recognizes the severity of the opioid crisis devastating our communities. But now, more than ever, law enforcement needs the Administration to make treatment the focus of its response to this crisis, rather than incarceration.

“Those of us who fought on the frontlines of the War on Drugs know too well that we cannot arrest our way out of addiction. We’ve learned that harsh prosecutions and lengthy sentences are not the solution to America’s drug problem. It’s time to adopt policies we know work: provide treatment to those who need it and allow law enforcement to refocus on combatting serious, violent crime.”

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, including the recommendation to expand increase drug treatment and to direct the Justice Department to focus enforcement on serious crimes over nonviolent drug crime.

To schedule an interview with Serpas or other members of 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 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](#).

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit www.lawenforcementleaders.org or [@lawleadgroup](https://twitter.com/lawleadgroup).