



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Expert available for comment

Police Chiefs: New FBI Numbers Show Crime and Murder Still at Historic Lows

Data Shows No Evidence of an Existing Crime Wave, Improvements in Some Major Cities

Following the release today of the FBI Uniform Crime Report analyzing crime rates for 2016, **Ronal Serpas, Chairman of [Law Enforcement Leaders](http://www.lawenforcementleaders.org)**, and former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department, issued the following statement:

“New data from the FBI shows crime remains near all-time lows across the country. These numbers also indicate an increase in murder in several cities in 2016, however, this concerning violence is localized and should be addressed as such. In fact, recent [analysis](#) of 2017 data shows that all measures of crime and murder are on the decline.”

“Experience has taught us that focusing police resources on combatting local violence will help keep crime down. But, false narratives about a national crime wave will not help. They make it harder for law enforcement to implement proven tactics that address the real issues, instead of the myths. We hope the Administration will focus on supporting local law enforcement’s efforts to swiftly combat violence in these cities, rather than perpetuating these myths.”

James P. O’Neill, New York City Police Commissioner, issued the following statement:

"Today's new data confirms what we in New York City have known for years now: Enhanced training, improved tactics, and constructive engagement with the public we serve all lead to long-term reductions in crime. More than ever, the NYPD focuses its efforts on the underlying drivers of crime and disorder. This precision policing -- targeted enforcement of the small percentage of the population responsible for the majority of the violence -- results in safer neighborhoods all throughout our city.

"The NYPD has set the standard for effective, efficient policing in this nation because we understand that nothing in our profession can be achieved alone. We know that public safety is a shared responsibility. And the only way to maximize our investment is to continue working closely with our local, state, and federal partners, as well as with every other stakeholder -- most importantly, those who live and work in our neighborhoods every day."

To schedule an interview with Serpas or O’Neill, 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](#).