



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Expert available for comment

Police: Opioid Emergency Declaration Is An Important Step

Law Enforcement Applauds Administration Focus On Treatment To Address Drug Crisis

Washington, D.C. – With President Trump expected to declare a formal a public health emergency around the opioid crisis 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 opioid crisis as a public health emergency. Law enforcement agrees. Those of us who are veterans of the War on Drugs know that arrests and jail time do not solve addiction. Instead we should provide treatment to those who need it, and allow law enforcement to refocus on combatting serious, violent crime.

“As we make positive strides to address the opioid crisis that’s devastating our communities, we must also ensure that treatment is also the focus of our response to the entire breadth of America’s drug problem.”

Earlier this month, Law Enforcement Leaders outlined a five-part policy plan [in a public letter](#) to President Trump and Attorney General Sessions, laying out how the administration can best reduce crime and promote public safety. The letter recommended increasing drug treatment resources.

To schedule an interview with Serpas, 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 over 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](#).