



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Experts available for comment

Law Enforcement: DOJ Marijuana Move Misguided

Prosecuting Nonviolent Drug Offenses Shifts Resources Away From Violent Crime Prevention

Washington, D.C. – Following [reports](#) that today Attorney General Sessions will pave the way for federal marijuana prosecutions in states that have legalized recreational use by reversing Justice Department policy directing federal prosecutors to overlook nonviolent marijuana offenses where state law allows, [Law Enforcement Leaders](#) issued the following statements:

“Those of us who are veterans of the War On Drugs know that cracking down on minor, non-violent drug crimes will not solve our country’s addiction crisis,” said **Ronal Serpas, Law Enforcement Leaders chairman and former New Orleans and Nashville Police Chief**. “We need the federal government to focus law enforcement efforts on fighting violent crime—the most serious threat to our public safety—rather than diverting limited prosecutorial resources to smaller, non-violent offenses.”

“A shift to prosecute and incarcerate more drug offenders is an ineffective way to reduce crime,” said **former Bush-appointed U.S. Attorney for Utah** and Law Enforcement Leaders member **Brett Tolman**. “Decades of experience and clear data show we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of America’s drug problem, and states have already made decisions on this issue. Federal resources are crucial to combating crime in communities across the country. Law enforcement knows we must heavily direct them towards combating violent crime and providing treatment to people facing addiction and mental health issues.”

To schedule an interview with Serpas or Tolman or learn more about 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](#) 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](#).