



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Statement from Executive Director and Senior Counsel of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration on the Insurrection at the U.S. Capitol

January 8, 2021

The events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 will forever be a dark moment in our nation's history. The extremists who stormed the Capitol sought to disrupt a routine part of our democratic process — the certification of Electoral College votes. In no uncertain terms, President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris won the election this past November. Any attempt by elected officials, organizations, or individuals to undermine this truth poses a threat to our republic.

We are grateful for the members of law enforcement who put their lives on the line and sought to protect Congress from the violent and chaotic mob charging the Capitol. As a result of this clash, at least 5 individuals have died, including a police officer. While many in law enforcement tried to fulfill their duties and protect the Capitol and our elected officials, reports and video recordings suggest that some law enforcement officers and at least one state lawmaker aided or joined the mob storming the Capitol, putting Congressmembers and many others in danger. If true, such actions undermine the nation's trust in law enforcement and are a disgraceful affront to our professional commitment to serve and protect.

Further, as many observers have noted, the racial dynamics at play this week are deeply unsettling. The inadequate law enforcement response to this violent assault on our nation's capital, as compared to the forceful response to some of the peaceful protests following the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, serves to undermine law enforcement legitimacy.

We call for full and complete investigations and, when appropriate, apprehension and prosecution of the individuals involved in this shameful attack on the Capitol, and a full review of law enforcement's response. There must be accountability for the individuals who perpetrated this week's events and for government officials who fomented conspiracy theories leading us to this moment.

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