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Experts available for comment

Top Law Enforcement to Trump and Clinton: Reducing Arrests, Imprisonment Would Promote Law and Order

Police and Prosecutors Call for Fewer Nonviolent Offenders Behind Bars, More Resources to Address Violent Crime

WASHINGTON – Some of the nation’s most prominent nonpartisan law enforcement organizations are coming together to [call on](#) the presumptive presidential nominees to embrace policies that would reduce crime and incarceration together.

Not only will such changes promote public safety, the officials say, they could help repair relationships between police and communities, which have been deeply strained after the recent tragedies in Dallas, Minnesota, and Louisiana.

In [a letter](#) today to Republican Donald J. Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, leading groups representing more than 30,000 current and former police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, district attorneys, attorneys’ general and U.S. Attorneys from all 50 states call for sensible steps to address burgeoning prison populations. They say curbing unnecessary incarceration will reduce crime by redirecting resources where they’re most needed — to apprehend and bring to justice the most dangerous and serious offenders.

It marks the first time the law enforcement community has united with one voice to ask major party candidates to support reducing imprisonment. The move is a powerful reversal from law enforcement’s past support of rigid sentencing laws, and signatories asked the candidates to consider the expertise and perspective that led them to the change of heart.

“We believe there is an urgent need for the next Administration to help promote the public safety of this country, reduce recidivism, and reform sentencing policies,” **the letter reads**. “Though this may seem counterintuitive, we know from our experience as law enforcement officials that over-relying on incarceration does not deter crime.”

“In the wake of the tragedies last week, it’s even more critical to reform and strengthen our criminal justice system,” **said Ronal Serpas, chairman of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration**, and former police chief in New Orleans and Nashville. “Ending unnecessary arrests and incarceration, moving police resources away from petty crimes and toward violent ones, and strengthening relationships between law enforcement

and communities are practical and realistic changes that can happen right now. All Americans want a safe place to live. These are concrete steps we can take to help us all move forward together in this challenging time.”

The letter specifically calls on the next presidential administration to:

- **Redirect resources toward reducing violent crime** instead of squandering them on arresting, prosecuting, and imprisoning low-level offenders, and those suffering from mental illness and addiction.
- **Address the burgeoning national prison population** by allowing lower-level offenders a chance for redemption through alternative punishments that are proven to reduce recidivism and rehabilitate.

The signatories include:

- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- National District Attorney’s Association
- Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
- Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration
- Police Foundation

The full text of the letter can be found [here](#).

To schedule an interview 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 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](#).