



IACP and FOP Statement on Executive Order on Police Reform

For months the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) have been engaged in extensive discussions with the Administration in good faith to develop the *Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety*. We applaud the Administration for listening to our constructive feedback and incorporating our suggestions into the Executive Order. Our organizations, which represent our nation's chiefs and the majority of rank-and-file officers, believe that it marks a significant step in our continuing efforts to strengthen the trust of the public in police and the criminal justice system.

During our discussions, the IACP and FOP remained focused on communicating the challenges facing the policing profession and making clear that our profession is comprised of dedicated individuals who are committed to the preservation of human life, maintaining the highest ethical standards, and treating all individuals with dignity and respect, while holding themselves and others accountable for their actions.

As the President noted in the Executive Order, many state and local police agencies across the country have taken the lead in efforts to make our communities safer, modernize policing practices, and make our broader criminal justice system more effective and more equitable. To that end, we stressed the need for support for proven training, agency accreditation, data collection initiatives, and more uniform policies based on evidenced-based leading practices, and we are grateful the Administration listened and then acted.

Specifically, the Executive Order -

- Directs the U.S. Justice Department to consult with state and local law enforcement to develop guidance and leading practices on recruitment and retention to address the shortage of officers nationwide;
- Supports officer wellness and takes affirmative steps to prevent suicides among law enforcement officers;
- Urges the development of standards for law enforcement accrediting bodies and encourages state and local law enforcement agencies to become accredited;
- Establishes a consistent Use of Force Policy for Federal Agencies that follows the *National Consensus Use of Force Policy*, the development of which was led by our organizations;
- Promotes development of an accurate Officer Accountability database that preserves and protects the due process rights of officers;
- Preserves state and local law enforcement access to needed equipment for mission-based public safety objectives from the 1033 and other surplus equipment programs and improves oversight and accountability;
- Promotes broad data collection efforts to better improve policing practices at all levels of government; and

- Directs federal departments and their components to use their grant-making authority to support and promote state and local law enforcement's improved policing practices, to gain access to better equipment and technology, to enhance accountability and transparency, and to make communities safer.

While this Executive Order's direct impact is limited to federal law enforcement agencies, the IACP and FOP see many components of the order as a blueprint for future Congressional action. We remain steadfast in our commitment to working with all interested parties who are willing to take an evidence-based approach to enact effective and lasting change to build a safer future for our communities and the men and women peace officers that serve them.

Much work remains to be done, as this Executive Order only touches upon one element of the criminal justice system – policing. It represents, however, a good faith effort by all involved to reach accord without compromising any core values or issues. A broader approach to overall systemic issues needs to be a priority of all elected officials and, just as our organizations have done from the start, stand ready to work together to make the entirety of our criminal justice system fairer and more equitable for all.