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For Immediate Release

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Sheriffs Support Tool to Combat Violent Crime

Today's announcement by Attorney General Sessions to reinstate civil asset forfeiture adoptions, while protecting innocent owners, is a welcomed reprieve in our effort to protect the public from criminal organizations and combat violent crime. As violent crime in major cities continues to rise and more people have died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any year on record, public safety should continue to be our nation's number one priority.

For over thirty years, the asset forfeiture program has enabled law enforcement to deprive criminals of both the proceeds and tools of crime. The civil asset forfeiture and the equitable sharing programs are integral in the recovery of money and assets for victims, and have provided State and local agencies with a means to participate in federal task forces, account for costs associated with investigations, training, drug awareness and community based programs.

Sheriff Michael Bouchard, Vice President of the MCSA in charge of Government Affairs said, "Without question, civil seizure helps to deter crime and take profits out of criminal activity. With the opioid epidemic at an all time high, we need to eliminate the financial gain from those that profit off of selling this death. We thank Attorney General Sessions for his commitment to fight violent crime and his unwavering support of local law enforcement."

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The [Major County Sheriffs of America](http://www.mcsheriffs.com) (MCSA) is a professional law enforcement association of elected sheriffs representing counties or parishes with 500,000 population or more. MCSA is dedicated to preserving the highest integrity in law enforcement, corrections and the elected Office of the Sheriff. MCSA's membership represents over 100 million Americans, and works to promote a greater understanding of strategies to address future problems and identify law enforcement challenges facing members of the organization.