



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCSA Statement on Policing Executive Order

The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) has taken time to review the executive order on policing that President Biden signed on March 25th. Our members remain committed to the ongoing work with our communities, Congress, and the Administration to enhance public safety, officer safety and wellness, and embrace opportunities to improve and build upon public trust.

The focus on building trust is vital for law enforcement to carry out their duties and to keep our communities safe, particularly as we see crime increasing across many parts of our nation. The MCSA has long held this priority, and since sheriffs are the only law enforcement professionals elected by the people to serve the people, we take this priority seriously. We can provide a unique perspective on topics relating to policing and corrections.

Prior to President Biden's issuance of his executive order, MCSA leadership had worked closely with bipartisan members of Congress including Senator Tim Scott and Senator Cory Booker to address many of the very issues addressed in the order. During these discussions and negotiations, sheriffs were provided direct access, were consulted on language, and served as an advocate for sheriffs, our agency members, and for the critical causes relating to the state of our profession and our relationship with all of our citizens.

Additionally, several sections of the executive order that President Biden issued yesterday reflect input that MCSA provided through high-level discussions with the President's team early in the drafting process. We are encouraged that some provisions of the executive order acknowledge the extraordinary challenges that our officers and deputies face daily and will result in more tools to support officer wellness. The MCSA is continuing to analyze the executive order for the potential the long-term impact it may have on sheriffs' offices, the policing profession, and the communities we serve.

Many of the elements discussed in the executive order are items that modern policing agencies can stand behind, such as banning chokeholds except where the use of deadly force is authorized, updating protocols for the use of no-knock warrants, and the value of technology. At the same time, we have serious concerns regarding how various provisions of the executive order will be implemented and their long-term impact on local policing agencies. While any executive order can only directly impact federal agencies, certain provisions make clear that the Administration will seek to leverage federal authority to cause states and local governments to adopt the same or similar policies. Although we recognize that many MCSA member agencies already have some of these ordered policies and procedures in place, we further urge the Administration to collaborate with the practitioners who will be responsible for implementing any new policies.

The MCSA is well-positioned to offer comprehensive information on best practices, innovative solutions, challenges, and necessary resources to accelerate the system-wide improvements discussed in the executive order. We look forward to lending our expertise and perspective as the Department of Justice, and other executive branch components work to develop those details and ensure they are workable in practice.

Effective modernization and reform can only be achieved through a whole-of-system approach and meaningful collaboration. MCSA is working with our partners across the system on numerous priorities, including ways to improve responses and treatment for those suffering from mental health and substance use issues. We encourage

the Administration to include all relevant stakeholders as policies are developed that will directly impact our ability to keep our communities safe, hold offenders accountable, reduce recidivism, and provide individuals with the resources and care they deserve.

The MCSA remains ready to engage with the Administration and Congress in constructive and collaborative discussions on policy and resource enhancements that will strengthen public trust and public safety.

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Members of MCSA represent over 130 million Americans in more than 100 of our country's largest and most diverse counties. We provide policing and correctional services to the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Our members play a visible and uniquely impactful role in law enforcement and public safety.