

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE



FAITH & BLUE

As law enforcement professionals across the nation grapple with increased concerns about social justice and police reform, while simultaneously navigating the uncharted coronavirus era, community support for law enforcement is needed now more than ever. Realizing that support requires deepening the ways that police and residents relate to one another. For that reason, the Major County Sheriffs of America is proud to join every major national law enforcement professional and membership organization, the One Congregation One Precinct initiative (OneCOP), and the three entities in the federal government that deal most directly with local policing to jointly organize a historic law enforcement-community outreach initiative. This effort is entitled National Faith and Blue Weekend (NFBW).

Scheduled for October 9-11, 2020 to coincide with National Community Policing Week, NFBW will facilitate a movement where law enforcement professionals and residents build connections that break-down divides, decrease biases, increase familiarity and spur ongoing collaboration. In particular, houses of worship will be the foundation of building these relationships as they represent the canvas of the diverse backgrounds of each town, city, and neighborhood - collectively touching the lives of hundreds of millions. The activities that will be a part of NFBW will include virtual and in-person options for forums, community walks, picnics, athletic competitions, crime/safety briefings and other positive events geared toward fostering an environment of healing and reconciliation.

5 STEPS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Go to www.faithandblue.org and learn more about NFBW
- Appoint a member of your department to be the coordinator of your NFBW efforts
- Reach out to local houses of worship to plan activities together
- Register your activities at www.faithandblue.org
- Promote your activity on your social media, using the hashtag [#faithandblue.org](https://twitter.com/faithandblue)



MCSA Vice President of Homeland Security Sheriff Mike Chapman joined leaders from across the country in Washington, DC on September 8th at a kickoff press conference for October's National Faith & Blue Weekend.

The organizers of NFBW, including MCSA, believe that authentic, lasting change is possible only if community leaders are intentional about transforming hearts and minds instead of mere changes in policies and procedures. Until officers and deputies become intimately involved with the specific neighborhoods and citizens they police such that subconscious fears and biases are cured, we will continue to see tension, tragedies, and unrest.

We need your involvement in this effort. There are a number of resources to assist you every step of the way, all of which can be found at the initiative's web portal at www.faithandblue.org. These resources include a toolkit with detailed planning steps to organize seventeen sample activities and four 'quick' activities, customizable posters, e-cards, t-shirts, and banners. The web portal also includes the ability to register your activity so that members of the public can find it and participate. Furthermore, by clicking "Get Involved" on the web portal, you will be put in touch with a member of the NFBW team, who will follow up to offer support and coaching.

From Minneapolis to Portland to Kenosha, people are asking how law enforcement can protect and serve with equity and fairness. They are asking how officers can return home safely at the end of each day. They want to know how we can unite through a period of divisiveness and polarization. NFBW seeks to address these concerns by bringing us together around our many common interests as a counterweight to increasing division over our perceived differences. We hope that your office will be a part of this historic initiative.