



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2021

As police officers, we are given extraordinary trust and authority by the communities we serve and by the law. We enjoy the same rights as all other Americans; including freedom of speech and freedom of expression, however, because of our chosen profession, there are limitations to these rights.

First and foremost, officers who subscribe to violent extremism, racism, sexism and hate have no place in our profession. When officers with that mindset are identified, swift action must be taken. As leaders of agencies tasked with the safety and security of the diverse communities we serve, we have made it abundantly clear that there is zero room, not only in society, but more so in professions of public service, for people to have extremist views, regardless of ideology. Wearing a badge is a privilege, not a right, and we must all stand together to keep out, and weed out, anyone who would subscribe to views inconsistent with the values expected of the members within our ranks.

Police officers must be more thoughtful than other professions about what organizations they join, what opinions they express and how they express them. A police officer is expected to be unaffected by politics and unbiased in how they perform their duty, make decisions, and even testify under oath. To our friends and neighbors, and yes, to our critics, we are expected to set the standard for what exemplary, unbiased, conduct should look like.

Requiring all law enforcement agencies to conduct training on the use of force, de-escalation, the duty to intervene, implicit bias, procedural justice, and racial, religious, and cultural sensitivity is essential, especially training that incorporates input from the community. Further, a comprehensive review of department social media policies is necessary as the law enforcement profession re-evaluates, reforms and progresses.

Our officers go out every day and perform their duties with professionalism, compassion and courage. There will always be some officers who do not meet our high standards and while they are truly small in number, they exist. The human race is not perfect, and no profession is without blemish or fault. As leaders, we have a duty to act swiftly and we have the responsibility to hold ourselves and our departments accountable; our communities expect it and they, along with the good members in law enforcement deserve it.

Chief Art Acevedo, Houston Police Department
Director Anthony F. Ambrose, Newark Police Department
Chief Medaria Arradondo, Minneapolis Police Department

Chief Paco Balderrama, Fresno Police Department
Chief Susan Ballard, Honolulu Police Department
Chief Mike Brown, Salt Lake City Police Department
Chief Kenneth Cost, Mesa Police Department
Interim Chief Adrian Diaz, Seattle Police Department
Chief John Drake, Nashville Metropolitan Police Department
Chief Nishan Duraiappah, Peel Regional Police
Chief Wendell Franklin, Tulsa Police Department
Chief Wade Gourley, Oklahoma City Police Department
Chief Daniel Hahn, Sacramento Police Department
Commissioner Michael Harrison, Baltimore Police Department
Commissioner Geraldine Hart, Suffolk County Police Department
Chief Melissa Hyatt, Baltimore County Police Department
Chief Marcus G. Jones, Montgomery County MD Police Department
Commissioner Byron Lockwood, Buffalo Police Department
Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Chief Robert Luna, Long Beach Police Department
Chief Christopher Magnus, Tucson Police Department
Chief Brian Manley, Austin Police Department
Chief William McManus, San Antonio Police Department
Interim Chief Harold Medina, Albuquerque Police Department
Chief Michel Moore, Los Angeles Police Department
Chief Paul Neudigate, Virginia Beach Police Department
Chief David Nisleit, San Diego Police Department
Chief Neil Noakes, Fort Worth Police Department
Interim Chief Jeffrey Norman, Milwaukee Police Department
Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, Philadelphia Police Department
Chief Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Chief Paul Pazen, Denver Police Department
Director Michael Rallings, Memphis Police Department
Director Alfredo Ramirez III, Miami-Dade Police Department
Chief Mirtha Ramos, DeKalb County Police Department
Chief Gordon Ramsay, Wichita Police Department
Chief Orlando Rolón, Orlando Police Department
Commissioner Patrick Ryder, Nassau County Police Department
Chief Todd Schmaderer, Omaha NE Police Department
Chief Scott Schubert, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
Chief William Scott, San Francisco Police Department
Chief Erika Shields, Louisville Metropolitan Police Department
Chief Peter Sloly, Ottawa Police Service
Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service
Interim Chief David Tindall, San Jose Police Department
Chief Calvin Williams, Cleveland Division of Police
Chief Jeri L. Williams, Phoenix Police Department
Chief Vanessa Wilson, Aurora Police Department
Interim Chief Michael Woods, Columbus Division of Police

###

The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. The MCCA provides a unique forum for urban chiefs, sheriffs and other law enforcement executives to share ideas, experiences and strategies. MCCA provides a collaborative forum for the advancement of public safety through innovation, research, policy development, government engagement, community outreach, and leadership development.

Contact: Laura Cooper, Executive Director, Major Cities Chiefs Association (908) 268-2298