



September 24, 2020

The Honorable William Barr
United States Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr,

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the most prominent law enforcement organizations in the United States, applaud you and the United States Department of Justice for working to quickly implement President Trump's *Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities*.

The profession of law enforcement recognizes that no single factor is more crucial to reducing crime levels than the partnership between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. In order to be truly effective, police agencies cannot operate alone; they must have the active support and assistance of citizens and communities.

That is why the policing profession continually strives to earn and gain the trust of our communities through transparency, the principles of procedural justice, and holding ourselves and our officers accountable for their actions. The implementation of this executive order is a great first step in helping police continue to enhance community engagement efforts.

President Trump's Executive Order ensures that, in order to receive federal funding, law enforcement agencies must seek certification from an independent credentialing body on important aspects of safe policing, such as training and policies on de-escalation, duty to intervene, rendering medical care, and use of force are all positive steps forward.

While we strongly support legislative action on police reform, the FOP and the IACP, do have significant concerns with any statute or proposed legislation at the local, State or Federal level that creates an unachievable standard for use of deadly force or which conflicts with the established standard of "objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances," established by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor*.

If laws at variance with this standard are enacted at the local, State or Federal level, we would urge you to revise this guidance as appropriate and necessary to protect and uphold this constitutional standard.

On behalf of the FOP and the IACP, thank you again for working with us on this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work together on issues of importance to the policing profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Yoes", is located below the "Sincerely," text on the left side of the page.

Patrick Yoes
National President, Fraternal Order of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven R. Casstevens", is located below the "Sincerely," text on the right side of the page.

Chief Steven R. Casstevens
President, IACP



September 22, 2020

Phil Keith

Director

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)

Two Constitution Square | [145 N Street, NE](#) | [Washington, DC 20530](#)

RE: *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities*

Director Keith:

Thank you for reaching out to the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA) with respect to the DRAFT *Standards for Certification on Safe Communities*.

HAPCOA is a non-profit, non-political, organization whose membership includes primarily command level officials in municipal, county, state, university, school and federal law enforcement agencies. We have for over 45 years supported enhancements in law enforcement management, policies & procedures, use of force training & de-escalation, mentoring, recruitment, community engagement and executive leadership that contributes to safe communities.

HAPCOA supports the intentions of the Presidents Executive Order No. 13929, which directs the U.S. Attorney General to ensure that law enforcement agencies seeking discretionary grant funding have obtained (or are in the process of seeking) credentials certifying that they have meet certain mandatory and discretionary standards for safe policing.

HAPCOA has for years, via its Annual National Law Enforcement Training Symposiums, supported a process of departmental assessment of policies & procedures, and training which includes officer safety, use of force, in-service training, firearms, de-escalation training, recruitment, diversity, officer well-being and community engagement.

HAPCOA has invited various state certifying agencies to attend our events and to discuss with our membership, of command staff officials, the process of preparing for evaluation and certification. We have also invited independent credentialing organizations to attend our events and to address the advantages of an independent accreditation (Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies-CALEA; International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators-IACLEA).

In addition, to being eligible for Department of Justice discretionary grant funding accredited law enforcement departments would help avoid inherent liabilities and help ensure compliance with established departmental policies and procedure. Also any changes to policies, procedures, laws and community requirements will be identified for review, amendment, change and/or inclusion within the departments General Manual.

HAPCOA finds that the intention of requiring this enhanced standard of certification, by early 2021, may require that the many state law enforcement certifying organizations be given detailed guidance and then reviewed for certified by the Office of the U.S. Attorney General. All Police agencies previously certified will have their certification carried forward (and any missing DOJ noted topics would be addressed before a prescribed deadline). In addition independent accreditation association would be treated in a like manner.

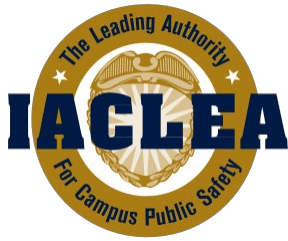
HAPCOA finds that smaller underfunded law enforcement departments might need an extended grace period and possibly directed funding to help re-write policies & procedures and to address noted topics, such as use of force, firearms training, de-escalation, duty to intervene, warrants, etc.

HAPCOA will continue to offer, via its yearly National Law Enforcement Training Symposium, an opportunity to review enhanced community engagement, via specialize presentations, roundtable discussions and lectures offered by active practitioners in community engagement. Our goal is to be recognized by the U.S. Attorney General as a long time provider of community engagement training.

Anthony Chapa

Anthony Chapa
Executive Director
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association
PO Box 29626
Washington, DC 20017

www.hapcoa.org



International Association of Campus
Law Enforcement Administrators

The Leading Authority for Campus Public Safety

By Electronic Mail

September 21, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr:

On behalf of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), I am writing to voice our association's support for President Trump's Executive Order No. 13929, *Safe Policing for Safe Communities*. We also share our readiness and willingness to serve, at your discretion, as an Independent Credentialing Body, as defined within the Executive Order.

IACLEA is a nationally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization and law enforcement accreditation entity. We maintain a comprehensive catalogue of over 200 law enforcement agency standards. Campus law enforcement agencies from more than 930 U.S. colleges and universities serve as IACLEA members. Our membership roster also includes over 4,200 campus police chiefs, campus law enforcement leaders, officers and public safety personnel.

The IACLEA Accreditation Commission governs and provides oversight of the IACLEA Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation program. The Commission is comprised of campus police chiefs and law enforcement accreditation directors who volunteer their time and services to support the program, and to advance the adoption of, and adherence to, campus police agency standards.

IACLEA maintains compliance review processes that can effectively support assessment and certification of college and university law enforcement agencies that conform with Section 2 of Executive Order No. 13929, and which requires that:

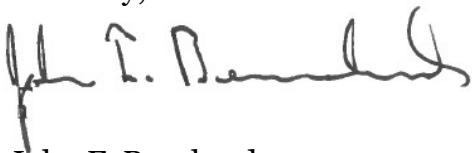
- (1) the State or local law enforcement agency's use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable Federal, State and local laws; and*
- (2) the State or local law enforcement agency's use-of-force policies prohibit the use of chokeholds – a physical maneuver that restricts an individual's ability to breathe for the purposes of incapacitation – except in those situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law.*

Additionally, in conducting agency certification reviews, IACLEA would be able to assess agency conformity in relation to agency use of safe policing principles as described within Section 2 of the Executive Order, which would include (1) policies and training regarding use-of-force and de-escalation techniques; (2) performance management tools, such as early intervention systems and personnel hiring and promotion policies and procedures; and (3) use of community engagement best practices and community engagement plans.

IACLEA's database systems can support the record management required to prepare a list of certified law enforcement agencies as needed, and which we understand must be provided to the COPS Office on or before January 31 of each year, beginning in 2021.

We thank the Attorney General in advance for his consideration of IACLEA in this important role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. Bernhards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John F. Bernhards
Executive Director



www.iadlest.org

International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training

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September 18, 2020

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The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr:

The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) supports the guidance document known as the *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities*. The US Department of Justice is to be commended for the thoughtful and diligent preparation of the standards. They are relevant and timely.

At this critical point in our nation's history, restoring and enhancing the public's trust in law enforcement is a priority for both our organizations. A federal effort towards a clear and achievable set of standards that does not hinder local law enforcement agencies from performing their functions while simultaneously assuring they are accountable to the citizens of our great country is a bold and significant step.

IADLEST is prepared to assist the US Department of Justice with the implementation of these standards.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Becar
Executive Director

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September 18, 2020

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JAMES PALMER

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Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers from across the country, to advise you of our support for the *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities* issued to guide implementation of the President's Executive Order No. 13929, Safe Policing for Safe Communities.

We, as rank-and-file officers, support improved practices, policies, and training for law enforcement. We supported Executive Order 13929 because it recognized the institutional knowledge and input of rank-and-file officers, the men and women on the street most impacted by these reforms. The *Standards for Certification* echo that recognition of the needs and legitimate rights of law enforcement officers, while also implementing new and significant standards for transparency, accountability, and training that will improve policing practices and policies.

Some in our nation have lost trust in law enforcement and are calling for outright abolition of police in the guise of reform. Many more recognize the vital services that law enforcement officers provide, often at tremendous personal risk. These *Standards* represent a vital contribution towards the betterment of American policing, not its deconstruction. They require agencies to have transparent policies in place governing the use of force (including choke holds), de-escalation, the duty to intervene, and "no-knock" warrants, among others.

Because they take into consideration the concerns and needs of both law enforcement managers and street officers, as well as the communities we are called to serve, the *Standards* bode well to enjoy wide acceptance and implementation by agencies across the country. We appreciate your willingness to work with us and consider our views on police reform as you work to implement the President's Executive Order. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to improve policing practices in America.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director



■ *Safer schools, safer kids...* ■

September 25, 2020

Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr:

I am Mo Canady, the Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, Inc. (NASRO), a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote safer students and safer schools through provision of education and training to school resource officers, school administrators, and other personnel involved in school safety. Through various training courses offered nationally both in-person and online and our annual school safety conference, we train thousands of law enforcement officers, school administrators, school counselors, and other school safety officers and officials each year on school-based policing, adolescent mental health, school law and school safety matters. In addition, we assist school districts and law enforcement agencies in the formation and/or ongoing development of school resource officer programs.

NASRO has long promoted the principles of accountable, safe, and transparent policing. After all, school resource officer programs serve as the earliest, and one of the best, methods of community policing, in that, they serve youth in the environment where they spend a large part of their time, and in some cases, the safest portion of their days. Because of the partnership between school districts and law enforcement agencies inherent in school-based policing, NASRO must and does encourage accountability, enhanced communication, and transparency by school-based law enforcement. NASRO firmly believes and trains officers that, in their role as educator, informal counselor/mentor, and law enforcement officer, it is imperative that school resource officers maintain the safety and well being of students, especially in situations involving detention and/or arrest.

I have reviewed the United States Department of Justice's *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities*, and I unequivocally voice NASRO's support of these standards. It is our belief that promulgation of these standards will be useful to encourage agencies to adopt and implement the safe policing principles outlined in Section III of the *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities*, in compliance with Section 2 of Executive Order No. 13929. Furthermore, these standards should serve to help to achieve the objectives of Executive Order No. 13929.

Respectfully,

Mo Canady
Executive Director



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www.nawlee.org

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

September 23, 2020

Dear Attorney General Barr:

On behalf of the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives and its Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to submit this letter of support to you for the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities.

The Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities provides structure and guidance of agencies that will promote accountability and transparency for police departments. The process will help increase the trust communities place in the police agencies that strive to keep communities safe.

Credentialing from a third party establishes a process that is separate from influence. The guidance outlined for requiring those seeking grant funding provides a framework for ensuring a high level of scrutiny for policies related to use of force, and highlights the auditing of procedures. Further, the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities promotes the need for high standards for hiring and promotion of officers, while at the same time emphasizing the need for intentional and thoughtful community engagement.

The Standards are a cornerstone of fair, impartial, and ethical policing.

Thank you for establishing the Standards and we look forward to supporting agencies as they seek to attain certification.

Paula Balafas

Paula Balafas, President

Kym Craven, Executive Director



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

September 17, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

It is with pride that the National Sheriffs' Association announces its support for the Department of Justice's draft Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities implementing the President's Executive Order 13929 calling for safe policing practices.

The Department has exercised great leadership to bring together the law enforcement community; we applaud that effort. We are experiencing a watershed moment in law enforcement and we recognize the importance of constant improvement in the methods and practices needed to protect our communities safely, and with trust. These standards are a significant step forward for all law enforcement and our citizens, and are the consensus necessary to hold our agencies and personnel accountable and to continue building trust in our communities.

We look forward to working with you and the Department to help promote this initiative and advocate its adherence by our members.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Mahoney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

David Mahoney, President

cc: Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, 1st Vice President and Chair, NSA Government Affairs Committee
Sheriff Greg Champagne, Chair, NSA Legal Affairs Committee
Jonathan F. Thompson, Executive Director and CEO