

leeway in the ability to stop and question a suspect. This bodes well for law enforcement, but it also places a special obligation upon us to make sure that we use these new tools provided by the courts in a very responsible manner.

One judge said in commenting on these cases that we would see whether law enforcement can use this new authority in a responsible way. If we are not responsible, it will cost us further good faith exceptions in the future and possibly the ones we have already gained.

This is why I think it behooves us to train our law enforcement personnel carefully and to exercise good management and control. By increasing the confidence of the courts in responsible law enforcement, I hope that we can one day wipe out the judicially-created exclusionary rule entirely.

Finally, for the last three years we have had a decrease in the crime rate in this country. This is not attributable simply to a decrease in the size of the crime-prone age groups, as some would have you believe. Rather, good law enforcement management and use of limited resources, more frequent imposition of sentences by judges, and longer terms of incarceration for career criminals have undoubtedly contributed to that decrease. And finally, as Sheriffs have long and well understood, the involvement of the citizen through community programs, crime prevention programs, and neighborhood watch programs can make a tremendous difference in crime control and prevention.

The Sheriff, with his long history of public service and law enforcement, fits comfortably and properly within the Founding Fathers' vision of government that is limited, but also forceful and effective where needed. That is a vision to which we at the Department of Justice have dedicated ourselves.

Thank you.

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