



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Atlanta, Georgia
Austin, Texas
Baltimore City, Maryland
Baltimore Co., Maryland
Boston, Massachusetts
Buffalo, New York
Calgary, Alberta
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina
Chicago, Illinois
Cincinnati, Ohio
Cleveland, Ohio
Columbus, Ohio
Dallas, Texas
Denver, Colorado
Detroit, Michigan
Edmonton, Alberta
El Paso, Texas
Fairfax County, Virginia
Fort Worth, Texas
Honolulu, Hawaii
Houston, Texas
Indianapolis, Indiana
Jacksonville, Florida
Kansas City, Missouri
Las Vegas Metro, Nevada
Long Beach, California
Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles Co., California
Louisville, Kentucky
Memphis, Tennessee
Miami-Dade, Florida
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Montgomery Co., Maryland
Montreal, Quebec
Nashville, Tennessee
Nassau Co., New York
New Orleans, Louisiana
New York City, New York
Newark, New Jersey
Oakland, California
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Ottawa, Ontario
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Phoenix, Arizona
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Portland, Oregon
Prince George's Co., Maryland
Salt Lake City, Utah
San Antonio, Texas
San Diego, California
San Francisco, California
San Jose, California
Seattle, Washington
St. Louis, Missouri
Suffolk Co., New York
Toronto, Ontario
Tucson, Arizona
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Vancouver, British Columbia
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Washington, DC
Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 21, 2009

The Hon. Janet Napolitano, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C.

Dear Madame Secretary:

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs (MCC), representing the 56 largest jurisdictions across the Nation, I am writing to express our gratitude for the recent opportunity to provide input into the potential of establishing a National Applications Office (NAO). To my knowledge, this is the first opportunity major law enforcement organizations have had to participate in this significant and complex initiative.

In our view, the NAO is not an issue of urgency. Our priorities include information sharing efforts, the integrated network of fusion centers, the Nationwide SAR initiative, and developing an Integrated National Intelligence Enterprise to improve the domestic intelligence picture. Our goal is effective sharing of law enforcement information that protects the privacy and civil liberties of Americans and we are thus committed to a national framework of privacy and civil liberty protections. We believe that at this time, it is these efforts that should be the priority versus the establishment of the NAO.

Should DHS further consider NAO issues, our concerns would include the role of local law enforcement in Policy and Management, Protection of Privacy, and Posse Comitatus, to reconcile proposed NAO domestic operations with the Federal and State laws that determine when and how military and intelligence agencies may be engaged in domestic operations.

We are grateful that you have assigned Bart Johnson to work with state and local agencies as he has a long history of working in collaborative environments. I have asked Deputy Chief Mike Downing to represent the Intelligence Commanders on these national issues. These difficult and sensitive challenges will require careful deliberation and we look forward to helping you reach a thoughtful process and resolution.

All the best,

William J. Bratton
Chief of Police, Los Angeles, California
President, Major Cities Chiefs' Association

cc: Mike Downing
Chuck DeWitt
Tom Frazier