



March 22, 2020

Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of County Executives, Mayors, Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, we thank you and your Administration for moving to meet the demand for comprehensive action to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Every first responder agency in the nation has, is, and will continue to face staff shortages, unsustainable overtime costs, and strains on equipment. As COVID-19 surges across the country, we formally request a meeting to discuss current obstacles and anticipated challenges facing the entire first responder community.

As we collectively work to navigate the most complex environment we've encountered in generations, we need your leadership and assistance; our men and women remain woefully unprotected and ill equipped. First responders are the first and last line of defense in our communities, running directly into harm's way to assist vulnerable citizens. If we lose our emergency personnel to the disease, we cannot transport people to hospitals and protect our citizens.

- Our nation's first responders call on you to address the shortage of essential personal protective equipment needed to keep them healthy and safe while on the job.
- Our nation's first responders call on you to assure that there is an adequate supply of test kits available to them so that they can be tested after they are exposed.
- Our nation's first responders call on you to use the full force and authorities of the Defense Production Act right now to assure they have the critical equipment and supplies they need.

Supply flow and access must be addressed immediately as our vendor orders are not being fulfilled, outdated supplies are being pulled from service and destroyed, and distribution

protocols are placing first responders into lower priority tiers. The full weight of America's unrivaled manufacturing industry must be put into full force by the Defense Production Act, doing so is vital to produce the array of protective equipment, sanitizing agents and medical equipment we and our public health partners require. Additionally, we need updated and transparent information regarding the national stockpile.

At this moment, our respective organizations are surveying and communicating directly with the leaders of the state and local entities. We know on a daily basis the concerns and challenges of our members, and we are a reliable and advance warning and feedback tool for you; please use us as a resource. Each of our organizations are being asked to serve as principal points of contact for your team's dissemination of information. However, without understanding the scale, scope and timeframes of the COVID-19 expectations, we are left in the dark and in a reactionary posture.

A call-up of the National Guard under Title 32 appears to be appropriate. Working with the Adjutant Generals (TAG) of the States we collectively know our respective roles, as do the TAGs. Except, a reliable decision plan can't be made without advance notice to us. Sheriffs and chiefs will have to adjust jail, patrol, and policing priorities, as well as fire and EMS response cycles. Cities and counties will need to provide housing and other support functions to Guard members who are mobilized. Mobilization without our collective input risks great miscommunications to the Nation and undermining confidence in the first responder and National Guard personnel.

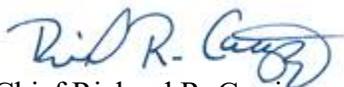
Confronting this health crisis requires a whole of government approach. Our communities are resilient and poised to meet the challenge. Nevertheless, adversity and obstacles remain and without a competent and accurate approach, we will fail. What we do in this moment matters. Your support of first responders is unquestionable, and your leadership is needed now more than ever. We stand ready to meet with you virtually or in person to answer questions or concerns, and we look forward to a favorable response.

In closing Mr. President, please know that our leaders and America's first responders will stand with you during this unparalleled challenge, but we cannot succeed without your support.

Respectfully,



Chief Mark Keel, South Carolina Division of Law Enforcement
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)



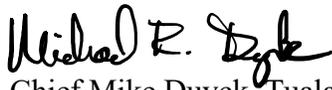
Chief Richard R. Carrizzo, Southern Platte Fire Protection District, MO
1st Vice President, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)



Chief Art Acevedo, Houston, TX
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)



Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Middlesex County, MA
President, Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)



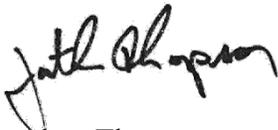
Chief Mike Duyck, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, OR
President, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs (MFC)



Matthew D. Chase
CEO and Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director, National League of Cities (NLC)



Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Executive Director, National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director, United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)