



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 28, 2020

### CHIEFS ADDRESS FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN MAJOR CITIES

As members of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) we value the working relationships we share with our federal partners. As violent crime increases, those partnerships are ever more important in our effort to combat the scourge of guns and gangs.

Protection of federal assets, as seen in Portland, differs greatly from joint federal and local operations focused on violent crime, as seen in Kansas City. Mission clarity, cooperation, and respect are essential to an effective partnership and unilateral action is destined for failure.

The MCCA is concerned about recent comments regarding uninvited and/or uncoordinated federal deployment to major U.S. cities. The mere perception of deployment for crowd control has inflamed tensions, and absent a request for assistance, federal officers have no place in our jurisdiction without our knowledge. Consistent with our long-standing joint efforts to combat violent crime throughout our nation, generally, operations to address public safety matters that fall outside of the purview of federal agencies, should occur only when requested by local authorities.

Operation Legend, named after LeGend Taliferro, a four-year-old boy shot and killed in Kansas City, is an example of a proper joint operation between federal, state and local agencies. Operation Legend is a coordinated law enforcement initiative in response to the sharp increase in violent crime and the surge of federal agents and assets is needed and welcomed. A collaborative and holistic approach to combating violent crime is required to make our cities safer and enables us to effectively leverage resources and capabilities.

Working hand in hand from investigation to prosecution greatly strengthens our ability to safeguard the communities we serve from violent offenders. History has shown the positive impact that close local and federal cooperation can have in combatting violent crime and our communities are safer when we work together.

###

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 Cites Chiefs Association (908) 268-2298