



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2021

KEEPING MAYORS SAFE: THE CASE FOR PROVIDING SECURITY

These are uncertain times – times in which officials, including mayors, have been the target of protests and threatened with violence. In some cases, these protests and threats have been extended to their families, including their children, and their homes. They have resulted from an increase in hate and escalated political rhetoric, particularly around the election, as well as objections to health and safety during the Pandemic. The January 6 invasion of the U.S. Capitol by armed and violent criminals increases the importance of taking these threats seriously.

In two meetings organized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the second of which was held January 14 in conjunction with the Major Cities Chiefs Association, it became clear that a statement on the importance of mayors having access to appropriate security when needed would be helpful to mayors as they work with their local police departments to make sure that they and their families, as well as other city officials, receive the protection they need.

Mayors are visible public officials and, as such, they are targets. We encourage mayors and their police chiefs to work together to identify the level of security that is needed based on the threat level for the city and for the mayor and develop a strategy to provide it. That strategy could include:

- a protective detail;
- regular communication between the mayor's staff and the police department to assess the need for security at public events;
- assessing the security vulnerabilities of the mayor's home;
- a policy of treating any 911 call from the mayor's residence as a top priority;
- additional patrols of the mayor's neighborhood; and
- other procedures.

We encourage:

- mayors to take their security needs seriously and to stay close to their police chiefs and report any threats or incidents involving the mayor and his or her family to the chief as soon as possible;
- police departments to monitor social media and other platforms that may identify possible threats to the mayor or demonstrations at his or her residence and to work closely with

the state police and the joint terrorism task force and local fusion center that serves their area;

- the city council to make sure that adequate funds are available to keep the mayor safe.

Lastly, police chiefs strongly discourage the use of private security personnel by municipalities for mayoral/dignitary protection units. Private security officers lack the authority needed to effectively fulfill the dignitary protection function. They also lack access to intelligence, communication equipment, and mutual capabilities sworn police personnel provide. Moreover, the use of civilian personnel is next to impossible when Mayors require interaction with heads of state, and other elected/government officials considered high value targets.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association will continue to work with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to do everything we can to make sure that mayors have the information they need to be safe and police departments have the resources they need to protect their city's mayor.

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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.

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