



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the largest local law enforcement agencies in the Nation, we are writing to express our opposition to the proposed relocation of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). In our view, the current placement and reporting relationships have served law enforcement well.

In plain terms, we cannot advocate to “fix” something that is not “broken”. Since the inception of the COPS office, it has functioned as much more than a provider of hiring funds and technical assistance. COPS has become an important institution and policy center for American law enforcement. More than another grant agency, COPS has fostered innovation, identification and sharing of promising practices, and has guided the law enforcement field in policies and practices that help to establish trust with the communities we serve.

We hope you will see fit to retain the independence and prominence of the COPS Office under the Associate Attorney General, and we would discourage actions that downgrade or diminish the importance an agency that serves in a key role to fight crime and protect the public.

We hope our voice will be considered in this national discussion and applaud your continued support of law enforcement.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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