



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

September 28, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr,

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), an organization of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada, I write to you regarding the Department of Justice's *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities* as part of the President's Executive Order No. 13929.

Currently there is no federal accreditation requirement, and state requirements and their associated standards vary dramatically between jurisdictions. The MCCA greatly appreciated the Department's outreach and while not all suggestions from the Association were incorporated, we applaud your team's attempt to strike a balance that is practical, constitutional, and meaningful.

The MCCA has long supported the requirement that police departments across our nation have use of force/response to resistance policies in place that are regularly reviewed and are readily available to the public. As such, the MCCA supports the Department's establishment of certification standards to determine eligibility for justice discretionary grants.

We hope law enforcement agencies of every size will seize this opportunity to improve upon their policies and procedures by going above and beyond the minimal standards for certification. With an emphasis of the sanctity of life, duty to intervene and a focus on de-escalation, the law enforcement profession will increase its accountability and build public trust.

On behalf of the MCCA, thank you again for your outreach and commitment to public safety.

Chief Art Acevedo, Houston TX
President Major Cities Chiefs Association

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