



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 26, 2021

Albuquerque  
Arlington TX  
Atlanta  
Aurora  
Austin  
Baltimore  
Baltimore Co.  
Boston  
Buffalo  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
Chicago  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dallas  
DeKalb Co.  
Denver  
Detroit  
El Paso  
Fairfax Co.  
Fort Worth  
Fresno  
Honolulu  
Houston  
Indianapolis  
Jacksonville  
Kansas City  
Las Vegas  
Long Beach  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Co.  
Louisville  
Memphis  
Mesa  
Miami  
Miami-Dade  
Milwaukee  
Minneapolis  
Montgomery Co.  
Nashville  
Nassau Co.  
New Orleans  
New York City  
Newark  
Oakland  
Oklahoma City  
Omaha  
Orlando  
Philadelphia  
Phoenix  
Pittsburgh  
Portland  
Prince George's Co.  
Raleigh  
Sacramento  
Salt Lake City  
San Antonio  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Seattle  
St. Louis  
St. Louis Co.  
Suffolk Co.  
Tampa  
Tucson  
Tulsa  
Virginia Beach  
Washington DC  
Wichita

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Booker and Rep. Jeffries,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 79/H.R. 1693, the *EQUAL Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

There currently is an 18:1 sentencing disparity for federal offenses involving crack versus powder cocaine. This means that an individual convicted of an offense involving 28 grams of crack cocaine would face the same mandatory minimum sentence as an individual convicted of a crime involving 500 grams of powder cocaine. The current sentencing disparity disproportionately impacts communities of color, especially Black men. For example, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, in FY 2019, 80.9% of crack cocaine trafficking offenders were men, and 91.9% were Black.<sup>1</sup>

Eliminating the crack versus powder cocaine sentencing disparity is long overdue. By doing so, the *EQUAL Act* will play a critical role in ensuring our criminal justice system is fair and equitable for all.

The MCCA looks forward to working with you to advance this vital piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Art.Acevedo@miami-police.org](mailto:Art.Acevedo@miami-police.org) if the MCCA can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Chief Art Acevedo  
Chief, Miami Police Department  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

Calgary, Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Montreal, Québec  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Peel Region, Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
York Region, Ontario

<sup>1</sup> "Quick Facts: Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses," *U.S. Sentencing Commission*.  
<[https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/quick-facts/Crack\\_Cocaine\\_FY19.pdf](https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/quick-facts/Crack_Cocaine_FY19.pdf)>