



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 15, 2022

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The Honorable Steve Cohen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cohen,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 6440, the *Safer Streets Act of 2022*. The MCCA is a professional association of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The majority of MCCA members are contending with a rise in violent crime, and many MCCA members experienced record-high numbers of homicides last year. Unfortunately, this trend is part of a years-long violent crime wave. According to the MCCA's Violent Crime Surveys, in 2021, homicides were up approximately 49% compared to 2019 and 53% compared to 2018.

Bolstering law enforcement's response to violent crime will require an influx of additional resources. The *Safer Streets Act* will help local law enforcement agencies address staffing shortages, acquire investigative technology, and enhance community-based violence prevention programs. Notably, these grants are reserved for jurisdictions where the violent crime rate is at least two times the national average. The eligibility criteria included in the legislation will ensure this grant funding is directed towards the areas where it is needed most.

Thank you for both your leadership and support for law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeri Williams  
Chief, Phoenix 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