



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501

(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515

www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

March 31, 2025

MICHAEL McHALE

President

*Florida Police Benevolent
Association*

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President

*Police Benevolent
Association of New York City*

CRAIG LALLY

Recording Secretary

*Los Angeles Police
Protective League*

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer

*Massachusetts Coalition
of Police*

BRYAN YANT

Sergeant-at-Arms

*Las Vegas Police Protective
Association*

SCOTT LEETON

Executive Secretary

*Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas*

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,

Associate Members

*Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association*

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian

*Wisconsin Professional Police
Association*

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

Dear Madam Attorney General:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the nation, I am writing to bring to your attention our concern over the proposed future of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) as laid out in the Deputy Attorney General's March 25, 2025 Memo "Soliciting Feedback for Agency Reorganization Plan and RIF" and advise you of our longstanding and solid support for the program and its importance to our nation's law enforcement community.

While we understand and support making the Department and its grantmaking authorities more streamlined and efficient, we fear that if the COPS Office is consolidated with the other grantmaking entities within the DOJ, we will lose a significant, dedicated resource.

Serving as the lead national law enforcement organization, NAPO worked tirelessly with members of Congress and the Administration to enact the COPS Program in 1994. Since its inception, the COPS Program has been extremely successful in implementing and carrying out its designated objectives.

The COPS Office has assisted over 13,000 law enforcement agencies with over \$20 billion in funding to hire more than 136,000 community police officers across the United States. Funding through its various grant programs has contributed to continued achievements in improving law enforcement and community relations; combating crime, drugs, and gangs in our communities; and addressing emerging law enforcement needs, including officer mental health and wellness. A big part of the success of this program is its reliance on local law enforcement agencies in defining what their communities need and meeting those needs.

In recent years, Congress has passed legislation to enhance the ability of the COPS Office to support state and local law enforcement, including the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act and the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act, the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, expanded access to active shooter training through the POLICE Act, and activities authorized by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act. These programs are vital to state and local law enforcement's ability to serve and protect our communities efficiently and effectively.

The COPS Office is the only office within the Department solely dedicated to the needs of state and local law enforcement. COPS leadership and staff have built close relationships with state and local law enforcement agencies and representatives, and it is known for its accessibility and responsiveness to stakeholders and grantees. It is a trusted office within the Department that over the past 30 years has become an essential partner to the law enforcement community.

COPS initiatives to put and maintain more officers in the field promote community policing, fight crime, and improve officer safety and wellness and should be continued and supported as part of an independent COPS Office.

NAPO hopes that you will help America's law enforcement keep our streets safe by safeguarding and continuing the successful COPS program. If you have any questions about the importance of maintaining an independent COPS Office or if we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director