



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

April 24, 2020

MICHAEL McHALE

President

Florida Police Benevolent  
Association

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President

Police Benevolent  
Association of New York City

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

TODD HARRISON

Recording Secretary

Combined Law Enforcement  
Associations of Texas

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to make you aware of the needs of our nation's state and local law enforcement officers related to the COVID-19 pandemic and ask that you consider them as you put together a "Phase 5" emergency stimulus legislation in response to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our nation's health and economy.

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer

Massachusetts Coalition  
of Police

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

MARC KOVAR

Sergeant-at-Arms

New Jersey State Policemen's  
Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY

Executive Secretary

Los Angeles Police  
Protective League

Law enforcement officers and emergency responders are on the front lines of the coronavirus crisis our nation is facing, serving and protecting our communities, often with little to no personal protective equipment (PPE), putting themselves at high risk of exposure to this very communicable disease. While our officers are in our communities facing the unprecedented threat of the coronavirus, many of their families are in home lock down, creating financial hardship on top of the stresses of the job.

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,

Associate Members

Detroit Police Lieutenants &  
Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian

Wisconsin Professional Police  
Association

Further, agencies have exempted themselves from providing the additional 80 hours of paid sick leave, per the Department of Labor temporary rule implementing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, forcing officers sent home to isolate due to exposure to COVID-19 to use their personal sick leave hours. Officers are being made to use their personal leave to quarantine themselves due to exposure because they are not given sufficient PPE and there is not enough testing. The remaining officers are working overtime to meet the public safety needs of their communities.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

Our priorities for the next COVID-19 response legislation reflect what officers are experiencing in the field and are for the protection and welfare of our members and their families:

- Establishing a presumption under the U.S. Department of Justice Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program that an officer's death or disability due to contracting COVID-19 is in the line of duty. NAPO strongly supports the intent behind H.R. 6509, the Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act, sponsored

by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler. We must ensure every public safety officer who contracts COVID-19 as a result of their service receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

- Increasing direct funding to local governments and law enforcement agencies to help pay or reimburse for all COVID-19 related overtime costs, additional sick and administrative leave, and hazard pay for officers in areas greatly impacted by the coronavirus. Providing overtime, additional sick leave and hazard pay will help ensure we are able to retain trained and experienced officers and law enforcement agencies are able to continue to serve and protect the public. Further, hazard pay will honor the bravery and sacrifice of our officers as they continue to serve our communities in this time of crisis.
- Increasing funding for the purchase of PPE for officers. Despite all the funding appropriated through the CARES Act, many officers across the nation still do not have adequate PPE. Some are given one face mask to reuse and a packet of hand sanitizer wipes, which is unacceptable.
- Repealing the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). With the continued spread of COVID-19, seniors and retirees are the most vulnerable population, both in regards to their health and retirement. The swift downturn of the stock market has no doubt impacted their retirement security and they need as much financial support as possible. This support can come swiftly in the form of increased Social Security benefits from a repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Thank you for your consideration of these urgent priorities of our nation's rank-and-file law enforcement officers. NAPO urges you to include them in the next coronavirus response legislation and we stand ready to work with you to support and protect those on the front lines of this pandemic. If you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,



William J. Johnson, Esq.  
Executive Director