



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

June 13, 2023

MICHAEL McHALE
President
*Florida Police Benevolent
Association*

Dr. Robert M. Califf
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20993

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
*Police Benevolent
Association of New York City*

CRAIG LALLY
Recording Secretary
*Los Angeles Police
Protective League*

Re: Opposition to FDA Proposed Ban on Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars (Docket Nos. FDA-2021-N-1349 and FDA-2021-N-1309)

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer
*Massachusetts Coalition
of Police*

Dear Commissioner Califf:

KEITH CURRY
Sergeant-at-Arms
*New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association*

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the United States, I am writing to you to express our grave concerns about the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) plan to move forward as soon as this August with a rule to ban the legal sale of menthol cigarettes, without having included us in any meaningful way in a policy decision that will impact our profession and our communities.

SCOTT LEETON
Executive Secretary
*Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas*

This rule is a massive unfunded mandate that puts Americans at risk. It will move a \$30 billion product category out of the legal system where it belongs and into totally unregulated criminal markets driven by international cartels, domestic organized crime, border smugglers, terrorist organizations, and street gangs. Our nation's state and local law enforcement officers will be on the front lines enforcing criminal statutes that make illicit cigarette activity a serious crime. The FDA mandate comes with no funding plan, no support for enforcement, while costing state and local governments billions in tax revenues. In short, these products belong in the regulated system, not on our streets.

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
Associate Members
*Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association*

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian
*Wisconsin Professional Police
Association*

We are especially concerned about the lack of any meaningful voice we have been given in the process. To our knowledge the FDA has never reached out to the law enforcement community to bring us into the process over the years it has been planning this mandate, apart from one-way comment period and "listening sessions" available to the general public.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

The American public deserves better. With genuine dialogue, we can work to find better solutions for keeping our communities healthy and safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director