



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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August 1, 2018

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Executive Director and

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The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman

Committee on Appropriations

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran

Chairman

Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,

Justice, Science and Related Agencies

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy

Ranking Member

Committee on Appropriations

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen

Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,

Justice, Science and Related Agencies

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Moran and Ranking Members Leahy and Shaheen:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) and the 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers we represent, I am writing to you to thank you for your leadership in support of fully funding the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program. However, in the Fiscal Year 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act approved by the Committee on June 14, 2018, we are concerned that there are significant carve-outs to this important program. As the spending measure moves to be considered by the Senate, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to ensure all \$50 million appropriated to Project Safe Neighborhoods remain dedicated to that program.

Project Safe Neighborhoods has brought together federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to target violent gang and gun crimes in our communities since its inception in 2001. It has funded evidenced-based and data-driven programs to fight gangs and violent crimes in our communities such as targeted police patrols, school and community intervention programs, and enhanced federal prosecution of gun crimes.

Importantly, the funding provided by Project Safe Neighborhoods is locally controlled, ensuring the resources meet local needs. With this program, state and local law enforcement can continue to fight gang and firearms-related violent crimes in the most efficient and effective manner.

This is not to say that the grant programs the Appropriations Committee proposed to fund out of Project Safe Neighborhoods are not important. The gang and youth violence education and prevention program, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, and community-based violence prevention initiatives are vital to helping fight violent crime in our cities and communities. We only ask that the Senate appropriate separate funding for these programs and dedicate the full \$50 million appropriated to Project Safe Neighborhoods.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction. We thank you for your work and leadership on these important issues. Please contact me at (703) 549-0775 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

William J. Johnson
Executive Director