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The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

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ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER ADDRESSES BIG 50 LEADERSHIP

On April 17, 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder addressed the Harvard Law School Labor and Worklife Program's Police Union Leadership Seminar, the "Big 50 Seminar", in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Attorney General reached out to NAPO President Tom Nee and voiced his desire to speak with the leadership of our nation's rank and file law enforcement community and Tom Nee thought the Big 50 Seminar would be the perfect opportunity. This seminar brings together the leadership of the police unions from the nation's 50 largest cities for three days to discuss pertinent issues facing officers and associations. The Attorney General was welcomed to the event by President Nee, Executive Director Bill Johnson, and Director of Governmental Affairs Andy Mournighan.

In his speech to the group, the Attorney General addressed his priorities for the Justice Department, both short and long term. His short term priorities consist of initiatives that deal with the issues of gangs, drugs, crime along the Southwest Border, and economic crime. His long-term priorities focus on the challenges being faced by federal, state and local law enforcement. These "mutual concerns" include the need to enhance and improve forensic science and technologies, improve communication and coordination between federal, state and local law enforcement, and the need for the federal government to provide essential resources to state and local law enforcement to fight crime and to prevent future acts of terrorism against our nation.

The Attorney General renewed the Justice Department's commitment to the COPS Hiring Program and the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program. Importantly, he stated that the Justice Department will be a full partner with state and local law enforcement in their work to fight crime.

NAPO is grateful to Attorney General Holder for taking the time out of his busy schedule to address the leadership of the police unions of our nation's fifty largest cities. NAPO looks forward to building on our mutual, working partnership with the Attorney General and the Justice Department.

COPS HIRING RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATE

The application period for the COPS hiring grant program closed at midnight on April 14, 2009. The COPS Office received over 7,200 applications requesting \$8.4 billion dollars and nearly 40,000 positions. However, the program only has \$1 billion to allocate to states and localities that they hope will hire, rehire and retain between 5,000 and 6,000 law enforcement officers.

In his speech to the Big 50 participants, Attorney General Holder recognized that the current funding levels and federal support for the program are not enough. He pledged that the Department of Justice

will expand the COPS Hiring Recovery Program and will increase federal assistance to state and local agencies to assist them in meeting the law enforcement needs of our nation's communities. The funding given to state and local law enforcement through the Recovery Act cannot be a one-shot deal; there has to be a long-term commitment by the federal government to support our nation's law enforcement in their fight against crime. NAPO continues to work to ensure our members get the resources and tools they need to efficiently and effectively serve and protect their communities.

The COPS Office will be reviewing applications over the coming weeks and all applicants will be notified whether they will receive CHRP funding no later than September 30, 2009.

HOUSE PASSES COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT

On April 23, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 1139, the "COPS Improvements Act of 2009," by a vote of 342-78. H.R. 1139 will enhance and expand the COPS Program and increase the authorization level of the COPS Hiring Program to \$1.8 billion annually (it was previously authorized at \$600 million).

With the support of the COPS Program, community policing has been a dominant force behind the dramatic reduction in crime this nation has witnessed over the past 13 years. In 2000, violent crime rates were at their lowest level in thirty years, particularly in large cities. More police officers patrolling the streets not only provide greater police presence in our communities but also increase police knowledge of crime problems. Thus, allowing law enforcement to do its job more efficiently and effectively.

Additionally, restoring federal support for state and local law enforcement is an effective way not only to protect our neighborhoods, but also to create jobs and begin rebuilding our local economies with confidence. Increasing the funding for the COPS hiring program also greatly assists police departments retain their qualified, active officers who have relationships with the communities. The retention of police officers who know their neighborhoods is an integral part of community policing.

NAPO wholeheartedly supports increasing the authorized level of funding for the COPS program; however, we believe that the increased level of funding cannot be an empty promise. It is imperative that Congress fully fund the COPS at its authorized level.

NAPO MEETS WITH WHITE HOUSE COUNTERTERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY TEAM

On March 16, 2009, NAPO was summoned to the White House by the Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism and Homeland Security to review ways to reform the White House organization for counterterrorism and homeland security. President Tom Nee and Executive Director Bill Johnson attended the meeting on behalf of NAPO.

NAPO was the sole rank and file law enforcement group invited to meet with the White House counterterrorism and homeland security team. NAPO was joined at the meeting by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the National Sheriffs Association. Tom Nee and Bill Johnson used this opportunity to push the White House to provide more resources, funding and support to state and local law enforcement for homeland security and counterterrorism.

This meeting is just one of many in which NAPO will be asked to provide guidance on White House and administration policy that concerns law enforcement. On April 9, Andy Mournighan, NAPO's Director of Governmental Affairs, sent out a questionnaire to NAPO members regarding federal aid and involvement in local homeland security and counterterrorism efforts. This information will be vital to ensuring state and local law enforcement are getting the tools and resources they need to protect our communities. If your association did not receive a questionnaire, please contact Andy at the NAPO Office at (703) 549-0775.

NAPO AGAIN ONLY RANK-AND-FILE GROUP IN NATION INVITED TO SPEAK AT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT

On Monday, April 20, 2009, NAPO was honored to attend the first National Law Enforcement Summit called by United States Attorney General Eric Holder. The meeting was held at the United States Department of Justice Kennedy Building in Washington, D.C. More than 70 leaders of State, Local, Federal and Tribal police were in attendance, as was the Attorney General and his top staff. Continuing the pattern set over the last several years, NAPO was once more the only rank-and-file group in the nation invited to speak at the summit meeting.

NAPO's President, Thomas J. Nee helped to lead a panel discussion on joint state/local/tribal and federal task forces, looking at how they can work more effectively and efficiently to safeguard America's public. Tom was joined by the Director of the United States Marshal Service, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the head of the criminal division of the FBI, the Director of investigations for Immigration and Customs at the Department of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Neil MacBride, Associate Deputy Attorney General of the United States, moderated.

NAPO SUBMITS TESTIMONY FOR SENATE HEARING ON LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES TO MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS

The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs and the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control held a hearing on March 17, 2009, regarding Law Enforcement Responses to Mexican Drug Cartels. The hearing examined the alarming flow of drugs, guns and bulk cash across the U.S.-Mexico border and discussed initiatives to stem that flow. According to a 2009 Justice Department report, Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations represent "the greatest organized crime threat to the United States." Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations are notoriously violent and well armed; over 6,000 people died in drug-related violence in Mexico last year. These criminal organizations control drug distribution and trafficking in many U.S. cities and have had a severe impact in Border States and other parts of the country.

NAPO was asked by Senator Durbin, chairman of the subcommittee, to submit written testimony for the record in order that the hearing would include state and local law enforcement's concerns and recommendations on the issue. NAPO's testimony focused on securing the border and the need for the federal government to provide state and local law enforcement the resources, tools and support they need to protect American citizens from the drugs and drug-related violence coming over the border from Mexico.

For more information on this hearing or if you would like to read NAPO President Tom Nee's testimony, please visit NAPO's website, www.napo.org.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER BILL OF RIGHTS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

On April 2, 2009, Congressmen Bart Stupak (D-MI) and Erik Paulsen (R-MN) introduced the "Law Enforcement Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights," H.R. 1972. This legislation is the new, bipartisan Bill of Rights NAPO wrote with Congresswoman Sanchez (D-CA) and Congressmen Stupak and Ramstad (R-MN) last congress. H.R. 1972 will implement standards and procedures to guide both state and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, administrative hearings, and evaluation of citizen complaints. It will also establish standards to guide law enforcement agencies in developing and operating a fair and effective investigative process.

The "Law Enforcement Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights" sets broad national standards to protect officers' due process rights. States and localities that offer equal or greater protect of officer rights would not be affected by this federal statute. NAPO strongly believes that individuals should have the right to file a complaint, to have that complaint investigated, and to be informed of its final disposition, including learning the outcome of the investigation and any resulting disciplinary action.

NAPO has actively fought for the enactment of a Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights since 1990 and we will continue to work tirelessly with Congress to support and pass this important legislation.

NAPO PARTNERS WITH FORD FOR THE POLICE APPRECIATION PROGRAM

NAPO is proud to announce the **Police Appreciation Program** in partnership with the **Ford Motor Company**. For a limited time, all NAPO members who are active officers and United States residents can receive **\$500 Cash Back Savings** on a new eligible Ford or Lincoln Mercury vehicle.

This offer ends September 30, 2009. Please visit www.fordspecialoffer.com/police/napo for more information. For an electronic copy of the enclosed flyer, please contact Nina Kunkel at the NAPO Office at (703) 549-0775.

Please help NAPO administer this great program by providing your members with the username and password for your association (they are the same as the username and password for the Whirlpool offer). If you do not have these yet, please call the NAPO office at 703-549-0775. We encourage you to inform your members not only about this extremely popular offer, but also to provide them the username and password so they can immediately act on this great deal. Please note, the username and password may not be posted on the web, unless your website is for members only.