



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

Strongest Unified Voice for America's Law Enforcement

ERIC HOLDER TO BE NAMED ATTORNEY GENERAL

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On November 18, 2008, President-Elect Barack Obama offered Eric H. Holder, Jr. the job of Attorney General. As the top law enforcement official in the nation, the Attorney General sets the policies for how the federal government relates to and works with state and local law enforcement. Eric Holder has the experience and knowledge necessary to run the Department of Justice and create a comprehensive, multilateral national crime fighting strategy.

Eric Holder started his career as a prosecutor before moving on to be a Superior Court judge and then U.S. attorney in Washington, D.C. While he was U.S. Attorney in D.C., he fought hard for mandatory minimum sentences and harsher punishments for drug offenses. The time he spent in D.C. also made Holder a champion of community policing. He recognized the importance of communities trusting their police and worked with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department to improve their standing within the community. Additionally, Holder took community policing to a new level in the District, assigning prosecutors to "beats" in order that they might better know the communities they served. He took his strong belief in the value of community policing with him when he was deputy U.S. attorney general, from 1997-2001. He was a key player in developing the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program established by the 1994 Crime Bill, which put over 100,000 cops on the street.

As Attorney General, we believe Eric Holder will make the Justice Department more efficient and effective, particularly in regards to programs that aim to help states and localities fight crime. State and local law enforcement will once again be regarded as a vital part of the national crime-fighting strategy and will be given the tools and resources necessary to protect our neighborhoods from crime. NAPOL looks forward to working with Eric Holder as Attorney General to support the interests of America's law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

NAPOL is working closely with President-elect Obama's transition team in shaping the new administration to ensure that the needs of the law enforcement community are met.