



May 31, 2025 – (Alexandria, V.A.) – The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) President Sheriff Kieran Donahue (Canyon County, I.D.) released the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) compiling and publishing a list of alleged non-compliant Sheriffs in a manner that lacks transparency and accountability.

“This list was created without any input, criteria of compliance, or a mechanism for how to object to the designation. Sheriffs nationwide have no way to know what they must do or not do to avoid this arbitrary label.

The completion and publication of this list has not only violated the core principles of trust, cooperation, and partnership with fellow law enforcement, but it also has the potential to strain the relationship between Sheriffs and the White House administration. This is an unfortunate and unnecessary erosion of unity and collaboration with law enforcement and the enforcement of the rule of law at a time when that unity is needed most. This decision by DHS could create a vacuum of trust that may take years to overcome.

DHS has done a terrible disservice to President Trump and the Sheriffs of this country. The President's goals to reduce crime, secure the Borders, and make America safer have taken a step backward. In a meeting today called by the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), with members of DHS, no political appointee for the administration could explain who compiled, proofed, and verified the list before publication. The NSA believes that the criteria for evaluation used by DHS must be published immediately, and they must provide a legitimate reason to evaluate those not cooperating with ICE and other federal law enforcement agencies. These are not just common-sense efforts; they are urgent necessities.

DHS and the Administration should publicly denounce the report to demonstrate accountability. The Sheriffs of this country feel betrayed. The current list must be removed immediately, and DHS must release an apology to the Sheriffs and the American people.

The National Sheriffs' Association is one of the largest non-profit associations of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and with a total membership of approximately 10,000 individuals. NSA is dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice. Throughout its eighty-four-year history, NSA has also served as an information resource for all law enforcement, as well as local, state, and federal government agencies.”

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