

HARRIS WALZ

National Sheriffs' Association
ATTN: Sheriff Kieran Donahue
President
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear President Donahue,

Vice President Harris and Governor Tim Walz are firmly committed to supporting our men and women in uniform both in the line of duty and in their daily lives.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz have supported law enforcement their entire careers—they know that the hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers employed nationwide courageously, selflessly, and tirelessly run towards danger every day so that Americans are safer in their communities. Vice President Harris and Governor Walz know that the heroic efforts of law enforcement have helped lead to a 50-year low in violent crime, the largest-ever decline in the national murder rate last year, and crime in Governor Walz's state of Minnesota falling to its lowest level in 60 years. These collective efforts are delivering again this year. Preliminary data released by the FBI on September 30 show that, in the first half of this year, the homicide rate continued to fall at record speed, declining by 22.7%, while the violent crime rate fell by 10.3% to its lowest level since 1969. On the other hand, Donald Trump tried to defund the police in every single one of his budgets as president, and JD Vance has point blank said "I hate the police."

Like their partners in law enforcement across the country, Vice President Harris and Governor Walz are public servants at their core. Vice President Harris led the second-largest Justice Department in the United States as California's Attorney General, and Governor Walz served for 24 years in the Army National Guard. As Attorney General, Vice President Harris worked closely with California sheriffs and other law enforcement leaders to tackle gang violence, get illegal guns off the street, and implement common-sense reforms to improve law enforcement training and reduce recidivism through data-driven solutions. As Vice President, she has led the White House's first-ever Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which works with law enforcement officers and public safety officials to combat gun violence and gun trafficking nationally. This collaborative work built on top of long-standing partnerships between Biden-Harris Administration leadership and state and local law enforcement, including regular touchpoints between leaders at the Department of Justice and law enforcement from across the country on gun violence, crime prevention, and investment in local public safety departments. When elected, Vice President Harris and Governor Walz will continue to build on these relationships and maintain open dialogue with leaders from our national, state, and local law enforcement organizations, like the National Sheriffs' Association in the critical work of keeping America safe.

Our country's law enforcement knows that, dating back to her days as District Attorney and Attorney General, Kamala Harris has been a forceful advocate for *funding* the police—at the federal, state, and local levels. As Vice President, she cast the tie-breaking vote for the American Rescue Plan (ARP)—legislation that led to the largest federal investment in public safety in U.S. history. It included historic funding for community policing and community violence intervention programs that reduce gun violence by up to 60%. The ARP's more than \$15 billion in public safety funding enabled over 1,000 city and county governments to avoid cuts to police budgets and hire more police officers—like Detroit

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adding another 200 officers to the beat and purchasing 50 new police vehicles; Toledo averting layoffs and hiring more officers; Houston paying for police overtime; Milwaukee covering pay and public safety needs; [DeKalb County](#) paying sheriff's deputies and police officers retention bonuses; [Marion County](#) increasing pay for the 911 dispatchers at the sheriff's office; and [O'Brien County](#) installing additional security cameras. In Minnesota, Governor Walz has invested heavily in public safety. Last year, he secured \$300 million in funding to meet the unique public safety needs of local communities, including personnel, equipment, training programs, community engagement, officer wellness, mental health crisis response, and victim services.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz support the Safer America Plan that calls on Congress to invest an additional \$37 billion to support law enforcement and public safety efforts. The Safer America Plan would fund the recruitment, training, support, and retention of 100,000 additional police officers over the next five years as well as additional civilian professionals who support their work. Specifically, the Plan calls on Congress to appropriate \$10.877 billion in mandatory funding over five years for the COPS Hiring Program. The plan would also fund bonuses for retention; provide student loan repayment and tuition reimbursement and grants; expand mental health services and improve care for police officers; help communities clear court backlogs and solve murders so we can take violent criminals off the streets; and replenish and reform the Crime Victims Fund to support critical victim service and compensation programs over the next decade. With these additional resources, Vice President Harris and Governor Walz would build upon the Biden-Harris Administration's work driving violent crime to record lows. They look forward to working closely with the National Sheriffs' Association and our nation's law enforcement leaders on these and other strategies to continue to combat violent crime and welcome their expertise as partners in these efforts.

The Vice President and Governor also understand that as our law enforcement officers work tirelessly to combat violent crime, they are also so often enlisted as first responders in the difficult work of addressing mental health crises in our communities. This work is never easy, often involving teams with specialized training to handle these matters with the tact and sensitivity that they require. That is why, in addition to the significant investments in crime prevention described above, the Biden Harris Administration's American Rescue Plan helped ensure that first responders have the equipment they need to do their jobs and stand-up mobile crisis intervention units staffed with skilled mental health professionals, easing the burden on law enforcement officers. And it is why, through the Safer America Plan, Vice President Harris and Governor Walz call on Congress to invest \$15 billion in services that help prevent crime from occurring in the first place and allow police to focus on serious crimes, including co-responder and alternative responder programs that employ social workers and other professionals to respond to mental-health related emergencies in partnership with local law enforcement.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz will also leverage every tool at their disposal to fight the opioid epidemic and the scourge of fentanyl endangering our communities, our families, and our children. Vice President Harris knows firsthand what it means to stand up to those who traffic in and profit off of deadly narcotics. As Attorney General, she worked with local, state, and federal law enforcement to go after drug traffickers and gun smugglers, prosecuting criminals, taking violent gang members off the streets, and confiscating dangerous illegal drugs. As Vice President, she helped direct more than \$150 billion to disrupt the flow of illicit drugs and delivered billions of dollars in investments to states to fund lifesaving programs. And she supported the bipartisan border security bill, with the strongest border security reforms in decades—that Trump tanked. This bill would have deployed more detection technology to intercept fentanyl and other drugs and added 1,500 border security agents to protect our border. After Trump killed

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that same deal because he wanted to run on the problem rather than solve it, Vice President Harris and President Biden took action on their own—now crossings at the lowest level in years and we are seizing record amounts of fentanyl.

Vice President Harris recently traveled to Douglas, Arizona where she affirmed her commitment to continue to secure our border and tackle the opioid epidemic by eradicating opioids and fentanyl from our communities. Her plan would surge additional personnel—including 1,500 additional Border Patrol Agents and other personnel—and technological support to the border and to the law enforcement agencies who are on the front lines of the fight to keep our border safe and keep fentanyl out of our country. Her plan would also double the Department of Justice’s budget for prosecuting transnational criminal organizations and cartels and extraditing cartel leaders to the United States. She will continue to ensure that those who cross our border unlawfully will be apprehended, removed, and barred from re-entering for five years and make clear that repeat violators will face felony prosecution. She will also strengthen federal laws regulating pill presses that cartels and transnational criminal organizations rely on to produce fentanyl-laced fake pills that resemble traditional pharmaceuticals and will continue to push China and others to do more to crack down on companies that make the precursor chemicals for fentanyl. She will modernize our screening and vetting infrastructure to keep bad actors out of the United States—whether cartel leaders or terrorists—by adopting new technologies and ensuring intelligence and law enforcement have all the resources needed to keep pace with the full range of emerging and evolving threats. And she and Governor Walz will work with Congress to finally pass—and sign—the bipartisan border security bill to secure the border, stop the scourge of fentanyl on our streets, and fix our broken immigration system.

Vice President Harris is also no stranger to fighting transnational crime—and knows how to stop it. As Attorney General, she took on transnational criminal organizations responsible for drug trafficking, seizing over 10,000 kilos of cocaine and 12,000 pounds of methamphetamine in her first term. In the Biden-Harris Administration, prosecutors went after the world’s most dangerous drug kingpins and cartels, charging top leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel and thousands of other alleged drug traffickers. As President, Kamala Harris would continue this fight to disrupt these organizations and the threat they pose to our country and our allies. She will double the Department of Justice’s budget for prosecuting transnational criminal organizations and cartels and extraditing cartel leaders to the United States, and will work with Congress to impose higher sentences on human traffickers. This work will strengthen efforts to ensure that the transnational criminal organizations and cartel leaders making billions off human trafficking and narcotics are brought to justice.

Finally, Vice President Harris and Governor Walz are also committed to ensuring that law enforcement have the tools necessary to combat the exploitation of advanced technology and social media by criminals and terrorists in a way that safeguards user security, privacy rights, and Constitutional guarantees. They join you in also strongly opposing bills like the “Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act” that will make investigations more burdensome, delaying justice for victims and risking national security. The Vice President pledges to work collaboratively and constructively with the National Sheriffs’ Association to address these issues.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz’s long-standing records of support for law enforcement and the issues affecting them—at the federal, state, and local levels—stand in stark contrast with that of Donald Trump and his extreme Republican allies. Not one Republican voted for the American Rescue Plan that delivered over \$15 billion for public safety or supported the Safer America Plan, which would provide an additional \$37 billion for law enforcement and public safety. As president, Trump focused on defunding

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law enforcement. He proposed cutting tens of millions of dollars from the COPS Hiring Program that funds local police hiring and has repeatedly called for defunding federal law enforcement—including FBI and ATF—and the CDC’s gun violence research program. Donald Trump’s hostility toward law enforcement and their mission made our country demonstrably less safe: he oversaw a nearly 30% surge in homicides in one year, the largest single-year increase ever recorded.

Donald Trump has also consistently undermined efforts to combat the scourge of opioids and fentanyl in our communities and, if elected, would end critical programs meant to address this epidemic. As mentioned, Trump killed the toughest, fairest border security bill in decades, that would have delivered critical resources in the fight against fentanyl, just to help himself politically. He has also proposed slashing \$8 billion in funding for critical substance abuse and mental health treatment and prevention programs, and tried to eliminate the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the agency tasked with coordinating the federal response to the opioid and fentanyl crisis. If elected, he would continue to push for policies that will harm the communities most impacted by the opioid epidemic and the law enforcement officers who keep them safe. Through his Project 2025 agenda, he will derail America’s opioid response and gut Medicaid, which helps cover the cost of treatment for nearly 40% of adults with opioid use disorders.

And Donald Trump is a threat to our democracy. He has illustrated time and again that he cares more about personal power than the lives of the law enforcement officers who have sworn to protect our democracy. After he lost the election, Trump encouraged an angry mob to march on the Capitol. During hours of intense physical combat, his supporters targeted, brutalized, and injured more than 170 law enforcement officials, leading to the death of multiple officers. Instead of standing with the brave men and women in blue who defended the Capitol, Trump continues to this day to stand with the extremist mob, promising to pardon the convicted criminals who attacked our law enforcement.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz are committed to continuing partnership and dialogue with the National Sheriffs’ Association. They welcome future opportunities to engage directly to discuss policies and resources needed to support law enforcement and public safety. And they appreciate all your organization does to promote the policies important to law enforcement and keep our communities safe.

Thank you for your support and continued advocacy.

Jen O’Malley Dillon, Campaign Chair
Julie Rodriguez, Campaign Manager