

# **NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

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## **STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JAMES W. JOHNSON, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

On behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, we are pleased the issue of gun violence was finally addressed during a presidential debate. Our hats off to the questioner, as she demonstrated that the problem of gun violence is on the minds of the American people, just as it is for our nation's law enforcement.

The topic of gun violence deserves more attention by the candidates, the media and the public, as too many people across the nation are victimized by senseless violent crimes involving firearms, with all too many lives lost every single day. Without the focus, commitment and active efforts by our nation's elected leaders to responsibly address these issues, the death toll and tragedy will continue.

Gun violence impacts us all, directly or indirectly. In addition to the harm and suffering of all those victimized, there are economic costs, with just one murder, alone, estimated to cost five million dollars. In 2011, firearms were the leading cause of police line of duty deaths, exceeding all other causes for the first time in 14 years. We have many problems in our nation, but this one is without question a matter of life and death – something that cannot and must not be ignored.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence is an alliance of major national police leadership organizations, united together to combat the gun-violence crisis plaguing communities across our country. In the remaining 20 days until the election, we urge that there be a greater dialogue on these issues as the candidates must focus on and face up to this urgent problem.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence is comprised of: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Troopers Coalition, Police Executive Research Forum, and the Police Foundation.