STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE, ON A VIOLENT AND TRAGIC START TO 2016

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence mourns the loss of six of our nation’s finest to senseless gun violence. Riverdale (GA) Police Department’s Major Greg Barney, Fargo (ND) Police Department’s Jason Moszer, Harford County (MD) Sheriff’s Deputies Patrick Dailey and Mark Logsdon, Mesa County (CO) Sheriff’s Deputy Derek Geer, and Seaside (OR) Police Sergeant Jason Goodding were all serving and protecting honorably when they were shot and killed. We offer our deepest condolences to the families and co-workers of these brave fallen officers, as well as to the communities which they so proudly served.

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence has long warned of the dangers of guns in the hands of those too dangerous to possess them, and has been repeatedly urging action in response to gun violence across the nation, including gun violence that plagues our communities and takes innocent lives every week in places like Chicago, Milwaukee, Los Angeles and this week in Harford County, Maryland, Seaside, Oregon, Fargo, North Dakota, Grand Junction, Colorado, and Riverdale, Georgia.

Law enforcement officers put their own lives on the line to protect others every day, but the threat of gun violence in urban, rural and suburban communities across our nation is threatening one of the nation’s most noble professions.

As we have previously stated, it is crucial that our nation pull together and work to keep guns from criminals and others too dangerous to possess them. The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence has stressed the need – as a public safety imperative – to require background checks for all firearm sales or transfers, and other sensible gun policy measures.

We owe it to all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, their loved ones, and all Americans to do all we can to make our nation safer and stronger, and to protect others from the same fate. We can and we must do more to quell this senseless violence.
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
Police Foundation (PF)

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