

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

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POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM



STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE COUNTY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE SIX MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOOTING AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Today marks six months since the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (The Partnership) remember with deep sorrow the horrid events of that day, and we continue to grieve for the 20 children and 6 adults whose lives were taken, and the countless lives that were shattered by this senseless act.

Six months have passed, yet more gruesome and tragic crimes involving firearms continue to occur every day. Since Newtown, more than 5,000 people have lost their lives to gunfire in the United States¹. Just last week, a mentally disturbed young man at Santa Monica College in California reportedly killed five people using a semi-automatic assault weapon, and carrying almost 1,300 rounds of ammunition.

Gun violence also takes a severe toll on law enforcement, already claiming 16 officers' lives this year². Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to protect the safety of our citizens, facing down armed and dangerous individuals whose acquisitions of firearms should have been prevented. We see firsthand the devastation caused by gun violence in our communities and know that more must and can be done to prevent it.

It is unconscionable that six months have passed since that fateful day in Newtown, and we have not yet enacted the most basic and commonsense measures to protect the public from this kind of senseless gun violence.

As public safety professionals, it is our duty to educate lawmakers and the public about the policies that will best protect us all. We urge lawmakers to heed the expertise of law enforcement and the will of the American people

¹ Slate Magazine, "[How Many People Have Been Killed by Guns Since Newtown](#)"

² National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, "[Officer Fatality Data](#)"

and do what we know will save lives: support expanding background checks to all firearm purchasers. We cannot stand by and watch the death toll continue to needlessly climb.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (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 (MCC)
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
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