

**Joint Statement from
The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLCC)
and The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA)**

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association and the Black and Latino Caucus recognize the need for comprehensive law enforcement reform in order to establish trust between our agencies and communities of color. The Sheriffs, since 1692, are the longest serving peace officers in the Commonwealth. They have demonstrated a commitment to protecting public safety and directly responding to the needs of our respective communities. To that end, we are dedicated to a collaborative approach to ensure injustices are not repeated. Equity and justice must be the foundation for our future.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs and the Black and Latino Caucus believe meaningful reform must address the following issues:

1. Condemning police brutality, racial bias and the use of excessive force;
2. Supporting the creation of a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) system;
3. Supporting enhanced peace officer training and protocols on the Use of Force, De-Escalation, Duty to Intervene, Racial Bias as well as training that embraces Humanity and Equity;
4. Supporting the ban on chokeholds;
5. Supporting enhanced training and protocols on non-lethal use of force;
6. Supporting Civil Service Exam Review and Oversight to support diversity and equal opportunities in the workplace;
7. Supporting the establishment of a Commission to study Structural Racism;
8. Supporting a Use of Force Review Board with state standardized requirements and subject matter experts to include Sheriffs, Chiefs, and Citizens.

In this unprecedented moment of societal reflection, The Massachusetts Sheriffs and the Black and Latino Caucus are committed to establishing a model of public safety that recognizes the need for substantive and permanent reform within the context of historical and institutional inequities. We endeavor to create and sustain an open dialogue universally to promote a system of justice that safeguards our communities, while protecting the dignity and human rights of our fellow citizens.

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian
President, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association
Middlesex County

Representative Carlos Gonzalez
Chairman, Massachusetts Black and Latino Caucus

Sheriff James M. Cummings
Barnstable County

Sheriff Thomas N. Bowler
Berkshire County

Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson
Bristol County

Sheriff Robert W. Ogden
Dukes County

Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger
Essex County

Sheriff Christopher J. Donelan
Franklin County

Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi
Hampden County

Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane
Hampshire County

Sheriff James A. Perelman
Nantucket County

Sheriff Jerome P. McDermott
Norfolk County

Sheriff Joseph D. McDonald, Jr.
Plymouth County

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins
Suffolk County

Sheriff Lewis G. Evangelidis
Worcester County