

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2019

Remarks on Signing an Executive Order on the Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Exposition in Chicago, Illinois

October 28, 2019

The President. Thank you. Thank you, Paul. You've been my friend for a long time, but thank you for that introduction. That says it all. You can say it very shortly, but I think there's nobody that's ever done more—certainly, in the position of president—for our great police, and it's an honor to be with you. And, please, sit down. Let's go have a good time. *[Laughter]* And, Paul, I want to thank you for nearly four decades of exceptional service in the line of duty.

I am thrilled to be here at the 126th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, joined by thousands of amazing law enforcement leaders—people that I know, people that I love, people that I respect—who defend our communities, chase down criminals, and keep America safe.

You don't hear it enough: You do an incredible job. The people of this country know it, and the people of this country love you. You don't hear that from these people back here—*[laughter]*—but they love you. You don't hear it from the fake news. The fake news doesn't like talking about that, but they love you.

Every day of my Presidency, I will be your greatest and most loyal champion. I have been and I will continue to be. It was a tremendous weekend. *[Applause]*

Death of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Terrorist Organization Leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in U.S. Military Operation in Syria

As you very well know, it was a tremendous weekend for our country. We killed ISIS leader al-Baghdadi. They've been looking for him for a long time. They've been looking for him for many years. He was a sick and depraved man, and now he's dead. *[Laughter]* He's dead. He's dead as doornail. *[Laughter]* And he didn't die bravely either, I will tell you that. *[Laughter]*

He should have been killed years ago. Another President should have gotten him. But, to me, it was a very important—I would say all the time—they'd walk into my office, "Sir, we killed this leader at a low level, this leader at"—I said: "I never heard of them. I want al-Baghdadi. That's the only one I know now." *[Laughter]* "I want al-Baghdadi. Get him." And they got him.

But he was big time. He built the ISIS caliphate. You hear about ISIS; that was him. It was once the physical size of the State of Ohio and had 7 million people, and it was growing big, big, big. And they had a problem; it started about 2½ years ago. *[Laughter]*

And during my administration, I—we, all together—destroyed the caliphate 100 percent. Remember? I got it down to 97 percent. And I said, "All right, let's go home." And then, those people started saying 100 percent. You know, before me, they didn't care. *[Laughter]* But now they say, "What about 100 percent?"

And we met some great generals. I learned a lot about generals. I met some good ones, and I saw some bad ones: some that didn't have what it takes, and others that had more than anyone would've thought. And it was supposed to take a year, maybe even 2 years. And I said to one of them, "How long will it take?" "I think we can do it in 1 week, sir." *[Laughter]* He was a little more like you. *[Laughter]*

But we have now tens of thousands of ISIS prisoners under tight supervision. And now we want the countries in the region to police their own borders. We don't want to be a policeman, in this case, of two countries that haven't gotten along for centuries. But we're keeping the oil, remember that. I've always said that: "Keep the oil." We want to keep the oil. Forty-five million dollars a month? Keep the oil. We've secured the oil.

Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention

This morning we are delighted to be joined by a lifelong friend of our brave police, an incredible guy, tough guy, and somebody with a tremendous heart also. But he is strong. He can take it. Attorney General William Barr. Where is William? Where is he? Where is he? They're giving him a side-angle of the speech. *[Laughter]* Good. Thank you, Bill. Doing a great job.

We're also glad to have with us Representatives Rodney Davis, Mike Bost, and Darin LaHood. These are warriors. Where are they? Where are they? The three of them, they're warriors for us, for all of us. They're warriors. Thank you. They've done an incredible job.

Thanks as well to the entire IACP Board. And congratulations to your new incoming president, Chief Steven Casstevens. That's a nice name. I like that name. *[Laughter]* Where is—where's that name? Where is he? He should be sitting right up front here someplace. I mean, okay, I'm going over here—stand up, Steven. Okay, Steven. There you go. I went all the way around the room to find you. Thank you very much. Congratulations. Incredible group. And I hear you're an incredible leader. Thank you very much.

And thank you also to the international law enforcement partners who join us. Together, our nations ensure the rule of law prevails in the entire civilized world. We work together.

I also want to extend our immense appreciation to all of the law enforcement family members in the room. Please stand. The family members really make you folks work. I know how it all is. They're so proud of you. Family members, please stand. I know how that works. I know how that works. Without those family members, you wouldn't be doing so good. I know that.

But there is one person that's not here today. We're in Chicago. *[Laughter]* I said: "Where is he? I want to talk to him." *[Laughter]* In fact, more than anyone else, this person should be here, because maybe he could learn something. And that's the superintendent of the Chicago Police, Eddie Johnson.

A few days ago, Johnson said, quote: "The values of the people of Chicago are more important than anything [President Trump] would have to say." I don't think so. Because that's a very insulting statement after all I've done for the police. And I've done more than any other President has ever done for the police. Over a hundred years—we can prove it—but probably from the beginning.

And here's a man that could not bother to show up for a meeting of police chiefs—the most respected people in the country—in his hometown and with the President of the United States. And you know why? It's because he's not doing his job.

Last year, 565 people were murdered in Chicago. Since Eddie Johnson has been police chief, more than 1,500 people have been murdered in Chicago, and 13,067 people have been shot. During the first weekend of August 2019, 7 people were murdered and 52 were wounded in 32 shootings in Chicago. And recently, they had 78 shootings over a weekend spree and 3 people killed. And Chicago has the toughest gun laws in the United States. That doesn't seem to be working too well, does it? *[Laughter]* And a lot of you people know exactly what I mean. But under Johnson's leadership, they certainly don't protect people.

Then, you have the case of this wise guy, Jussie Smollett, who beat up himself. *[Laughter]* And he said MAGA country did it. MAGA country. Okay? He said MAGA—that's a hate crime. That's a hate crime. And it's a scam. It's a real big scam, just like the impeachment of your President is a scam. And then, you look what's going on. Smollett is still trying to get away with it. He would have been better off if he paid his hundred-thousand-dollar bill. *[Laughter]*

Chicago is, unfortunately, the worst sanctuary city in America. Chicago protects criminals at a level few could even imagine. Last year, in Cook County alone, ICE asked local law enforcement people to: "Please, pretty please, we beg you, we'll do anything necessary to stop crime. We want to stop crime. Please detain 1,162 people. Please." But in each case, the detainer was denied.

And Eddie Johnson wants to talk about values? No. People like Johnson put criminals and illegal aliens before the citizens of Chicago. And those are his values. And frankly, those values, to me, are a disgrace. I will never put the needs of illegal criminals before I put the needs of law-abiding citizens. It's very simple to me.

So when Eddie Johnson, and many other people from lots of other regions and areas, support sanctuary cities, it's really, in my opinion, a betrayal of their oath to the shield and a violation of his duty to serve and to protect the courageous police officers of Chicago. And I know some of them, and they're the most incredible people. They could solve this problem quickly.

It's embarrassing to us as a nation. All over the world, they're talking about Chicago. Afghanistan is a safe place by comparison. *[Laughter]* It's true. Police officers of Chicago are entitled to a police superintendent who has their backs and knows what he's doing. You're entitled to a police superintendent who sides with you, with the people of Chicago—the people want this—and with the families of Chicago, not the criminals and the gang members that are here illegally and not the stupid politicians that have no idea what the hell they're doing.

But I'm going to tell you a quick story, because it happened right here. And I was very impressed with a certain person, whoever that person may be. I'm sure that we could find him. But about 3 years ago, I was leaving Chicago, and I was accompanied by a massive motorcycle brigade of policemen. And to do that, they have to volunteer, because, I guess, most places say you have to volunteer. Well, I had a lot of volunteers, I'll tell you. Hundreds and hundreds of them. Other candidates have none. It's almost like a free poll. *[Laughter]* I had hundreds of them.

Chicago was in the news a lot, just like it is now, because of all of the killings going on and all of the shooting and all of the horrible things happening. When I arrived at the airplane, the police officers asked whether or not it would be possible to have some pictures. And before I won the election, I could do that. I would do that routinely. Now I think Secret Service has a little bit of a problem. I—if it was up to me, I'd do it. But it was just before, might have even been President-elect. Wasn't long ago.

The leader of the brigade was this really powerful, strong-looking guy. A big booming voice. And he was definitely the boss. Do we know what that means? He was the boss. "Put your cycles over here. Come on, let's go. He's going to take a picture. Come on, let's go. Hurry up. Come on." And yet they all loved him. They love Vince Lombardi. They love Belichick. Right? They love Coach Belichick. *[Laughter]* They love certain people. It's called "respect."

But he was very respectfully shouting at his men, and—"Come on, let's go." And they were doing exactly as he said. He was the guy.

Just as I'm boarding the plane, I asked this man—I had a lot of respect for him myself, because I saw the way he was—he wasn't doing anything wrong; he was just the boss, who is a respected person. I said: "Excuse me. Come here. What the hell is happening in Chicago"? And

he said: "It's very sad, sir. Very, very sad. I hate to see what's going on. I love this city so much. I hate it." I asked him, "What do you think the problem is"? And he said, "There's no leadership from the mayor, and there's none at the top of the police department. They're afraid to do anything." He said, "We have great police, sir, the best in the country." And you all feel that about your own police. But he said that. He said: "But we don't have the leadership at the top. It's so sad."

I said: "You're a tough guy. How long do you think it would take you to fix this killing problem in Chicago?" He looked at me; he said: "One day, sir. These cops are great. They know all the bad guys, sir. They know exactly what to do. We could straighten it out so quickly that your head would spin." I left very impressed. Whether it was 1 day, 1 week, or 1 month, there was no doubt he could have done it. And I actually told the story numerous times, and I actually sent his name in to somebody involved with Chicago. And that's the last time I ever heard of that man. [Laughter] He's probably got a good job someplace, outside of a police force. [Laughter] I'm sorry to do that to you, but he's happy. He's happy. [Laughter] Because he doesn't have to put up with the nonsense that you have to put up with. [Laughter]

But I thought, "There's a guy who could be your police superintendent and do a hell of a job." He'd straighten things out. So that was years ago. And I was just thinking about it. I just thought about it on the trip over. I said, "You know, I'm going to Chicago, and I want to tell the story," because it was, to me, a great story. Because you could fix this up so fast. Good leadership would be pretty easy to find. You have a lot of people right now in the department.

You know, I love when they go to other parts of the country and hire people, and they don't know the name of the most basic street. They go all over the country. They hire somebody. Comes in: "Oh, good, where's our headquarters? What does that mean? Where is it located?" You have incredible people in the police department in Chicago. I know some of them. I met some of them. But remember, 565 people were murdered last year. And it's a shame. And I want Eddie Johnson to change his values and change them fast.

Today we're here to report on the outstanding progress we have made to combat violent crime and restore peace and safety to American cities. And most cities are setting records for good crime numbers.

In the years before I took office, outrageous slanders on our police went unanswered and unchallenged from your leaders in Washington. You know that very well. Radical activists freely trafficked in vile and antipolice hostility, and criminals grew only more emboldened as a result. In the 2 years before my election, violent crime increased 8 percent. Murders were up by more than 20 percent and going a lot higher nationwide, the steepest 2-year consecutive increase in over 50 years.

But with your help, all of that is changing and changing very rapidly. Under this administration, we are once again standing up for law enforcement, we're condemning antipolice bias in all forms, and we're giving you the support, resources, and the respect—and we have tremendous respect for you—the respect that you deserve.

Together, we have taken bold action to reverse the tide in violent crime. Over the last 2 years, the number of murders in America and America's major cities has dropped, unlike here, by more than 10 percent. And if we ever took the Chicago numbers out of our total numbers, the numbers would be incredible. And they already are, even including Chicago.

The nationwide violent crime rate has declined for 2 consecutive years. During this same time, the number of burglaries was reduced by over—think of this—a quarter of a million. So a quarter of a million less burglaries. That's a big number. It also helps that we have the strongest economy in the history of our country. That probably helps. Take a little credit for that.

And it was just announced, as I was getting off the plane, that the S&P has hit an alltime high, the highest in the history of our country. And that's not for rich people, that's for everybody. That's for your 401(k)s. Think of that.

And I have, again, a great love of the police. And in New York, I was there not so long ago. And this was before it went as high as it is now. And this policeman—I like to shake hands after an event—not that I like to; I do it because I respect policemen, and they want to shake my hand—and fire marshals, people in different stadiums.

But I was at an event in New York and came out. I was shaking hands. And this one policeman said, "Sir, I want to thank you." "Why?" "My 401(k) is through the roof. And for the first time in my life, my wife thinks I'm a financial genius." [Laughter] It's true. It's true.

Said he was up, now, 72 percent. I said, "That's not bad." He said, "She always thought I was incompetent, financially." [Laughter] "But you have made me into a genius, sir." [Laughter] He hugged me. He actually wanted to kiss me. I said, "No, thank you, but you can." [Laughter] It's not my deal, but that's okay. [Laughter] But he was great.

And it gave me an idea. I mean, you know, this is about 401(k)s. Many of you have 401(k)s. Does anybody in this room have a 401(k) that's down? Raise your hand, please. Ah. Does anybody have a 401(k) that's up? Everybody. I don't know what you would have had to do to get one that's down. You would have had to really be very bad. But no, they're up 70 percent, 80 percent.

Last year, my administration charged the largest number of firearm defendants ever recorded in the history of our country. Bill Barr is doing a fantastic job. We have increased Federal fire—[applause]—that's right, go ahead. Let him hear it. Good. It's true. And I say, "Let him hear it," because he hears from the fake news back there all the time. They want to silence everyone, you know, except for their very strange opinions. If we went with that, you wouldn't have a country very long.

We've increased Federal firearm prosecutions by 44 percent compared to the last 2 years of the previous administration. This is a record, a new record.

Two years ago, we relaunched and revitalized Project Safe Neighborhoods. Now, Federal prosecutors are once again working closely with State and local law enforcement and all of the community leaders to marshal our resources, target crime in the most dangerous areas, and lock up violent offenders.

In coming weeks, Attorney General Barr will announce a new crackdown on violent crime, which I think is so important—targeting gangs and drug traffickers in high crime cities and dangerous rural areas. Let's call it, the "surge." We can come up with lots of names, but we're going to be doing something that's very dramatic, headed up by our great Attorney General. And you're going to see tremendous results very quickly.

The best way to reduce gun violence is to put criminals with firearms behind bars. And just so you understand, because I think there is no stronger protector than me: We will always protect our Second Amendment. Always.

My administration has also curtailed the harmful and intrusive use of Federal consent decrees, which wrongly give meddlesome officials in Washington, DC, immense authority to tie down local police departments and make it very difficult to do their work. No longer will Federal bureaucrats micromanage your local police. And we will work with, upon request, local police to help them, not to hinder them. And we're waiting for a call from Chicago, because there's no place that we would rather help than Chicago.

To reduce people going back to prisons and to help nonviolent inmates successfully rejoin society, last year, we passed historic, bipartisan criminal justice reform. It's been very successful.

They've been trying to get it passed for a long time. We had conservatives, superconservatives, very liberal people, Republicans, Democrats—we had a lot of people. And I'm especially grateful to the help of Chief Cell of the IACP—fantastic man—as well as Pat Yoes and Jim Pasco of the Fraternal Order of Police in achieving this landmark breakthrough.

As you know, in recent years, our country has seen a dangerous trend of criminals assaulting police. We don't like that. Last month, Chicago Police Officer Adam Wazny was serving an arrest warrant for a man suspected of shooting a woman, when the suspect opened fire and shot Adam multiple times. He was very, very badly hurt. Adam's fellow officers chased down the gunman, while Adam stemmed the bleeding from his wound—almost died. After a month in the hospital and multiple surgeries after that, Adam recently came home to his wife Annie and to his two young children. So badly hurt.

We're profoundly grateful that Adam is with us today. Officer Wazny—[applause]—Officer Wazny, we commend your tremendous bravery. Thank you. Thank you, Adam. You look good to me. [Laughter] You look very handsome. If I had a face like that, I would have been President 10 years earlier. [Laughter] You're looking good, Adam.

But an attack on law enforcement is an attack on all Americans. It's true. Thank you, Adam. And we believe that criminals who murder our police should get the death penalty.

Audience members. Yeah!

The President. To help keep you safe, I've made \$600 million worth of surplus military equipment available to local law enforcement. If you remember, the previous administration didn't want to do that. Nobody knew why. Sitting in warehouses, getting older and dustier. And I—probably, we pay a lot of rent to a lot of landlords all over the country. So someday, I said, you'll explain. Actually, I do know why: Because they didn't want to make you look so tough. They didn't want to make you look like you're a threat. I said: "That's okay. We want to protect our police." And we made it available, and we provided nearly \$29 million to train more than 80,000 police officers.

And my administration is also addressing the vile acts of mass violence. We've seen some incredible police officers doing some incredible work recently. A few weeks ago, Attorney General Barr sent a letter to all law enforcement agencies announcing that he will lead an effort across the government to use the most proven methods of fighting terrorism and violent crime to "identify, assess, and engage potential mass shooters" before those shooters strike.

And last month, I was profoundly honored to award the Medal of Valor to the six police officers who brought down the mass shooter in Dayton, Ohio, in 29 seconds. I don't know how many people saw that, but I thought it was incredible. And he's—he did a lot of destruction. But he would—it would have been the worst in history.

Twenty-nine—I'll never forget the scene. They showed four of them going down the street; there were six altogether. But it was on tape. And those guns—and this is boom, boom, boom. And they were out there perfect; everything—boom. There was no fear. There was no anything. It was—they reacted.

And it's hard to figure. You know, a lot of times, you'll see something. It's a surreal experience by the time they get it together. They were shooting so fast. Twenty-nine seconds—he was dead. And he was going in for a lot of shooting, a lot of killing. They were incredible. So they came to the White House, and they got the Medal of Valor, which is a great honor. They were fantastic. Dayton, Ohio. [Applause] True.

And today, we're grateful to be joined by Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl and Assistant Chief Matt Carper. And we commend your department's sterling professionalism. And that's a

great State you're in, Ohio. We love Ohio. And what you did in Dayton and the way those police officers acted—and so quickly, so quickly. Gentlemen, please stand. Please.

Come up here. Come up here. Come up. Come on up here. They look pretty good, too, I have to say. You guys were unbelievable—your people. Say a couple of words, please.
[Laughter]

Dayton, OH, Chief of Police Richard S. Biehl. Well, thank you, Mr. President and also to Attorney General Barr, for the recognition of our police officers—six brave police officers—that acted decisively, swiftly ending a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, on August the 4th. They represent the highest of ideals and performance of our profession, and we are deeply proud of them.

I have with me Lieutenant Colonel Matt Carper. He was the Acting Police Chief in my absence when I was in Washington, DC, before I could return back to Dayton, Ohio. And he was the senior commander on the scene in those very early hours of August the 4th, helping to coordinate the response—the initial response—of more than a hundred police officers regionally to respond to that scene to perform the very vast duties that were required at that time.

I am deeply grateful to him and his leadership. The Dayton community is grateful for his leadership and for all of those dedicated law enforcement personnel that responded in the early morning hours to do the very duty that they're required to do and do in such a professional manner. So my gratitude to Matt Carper for all of his leadership.

The President. Great job.

Today I'm proud to announce another historic action that we're taking to reduce violence in America. In a few moments, I will be signing an Executive order to establish a new Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. They've been trying to get this for a long time.

This Commission will be tasked with providing concrete recommendations to address some of the systemic challenges that burden law enforcement, including homelessness and mental illness. This includes supporting the ability of law enforcement officers to ensure troubled individuals receive the mental care they need.

The Commission will provide concrete recommendations, and it will study the best practices to recruit, retrain, hire, train, and provide for health, safety, and the well-being of law enforcement officers. We want to take care of our law enforcement officers.

After the Commission issues its recommendations next year—they'll have them soon, because most of them know many of the answers before they begin; you understand that—we will begin implementing its best ideas immediately. It will take place immediately.

Since I took office, we have harnessed the entire Federal Government to combat the drug addiction epidemic. And last year, drug overdose deaths fell for the first time in nearly 31 years. It's a great thing.

I want to thank Acting Drug Enforcement Administrator Uttam Dhillon, who joins us today, and almost every person in this room for working together to end this horrible plague. This is a plague not only of this Nation, this is all over the world.

To stop the flow of deadly drugs into our communities, we're also taking dramatic action to secure our southern border. Illegal crossings are down 60 percent since May. And we are building the wall faster, bigger, better than ever even anticipated. It's going up now.

And I want to thank our military. Our military has been great. The Army Corps of Engineers, all of the folks in the military have been fantastic. But that wall is going up at rapid pace. And

we'll have anywhere from 400 to 500 miles built by the end of next year. That'll have a tremendous impact.

And, as you know, the other side knows that. But I made one big mistake on the wall: I should have said, "I do not want the wall," and they would have insisted that we build it. [Laughter] Big mistake. I should have said, "I want no money to go to the wall." And they would have thrown money at it like you wouldn't believe. [Laughter] But our military came through, and it's going up great, and it's top of the line.

Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan joins us today. And I want to thank Mark and all of the members of Border Patrol for the extraordinary work to defend our homeland and protect our Nation.

If Uttam is there and Mark, just come up here for a second. I want to show you—I don't want you to talk, because I have to get out of here. [Laughter] First time ever. But you know what? Because it's you, I'll stay as long as you want me. Come on up. Come on up. Come on up. Two great people. I think we should have them say a couple of words. Yes. Come on, Mark.

Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon: Mr. President, on behalf of the brave men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration, who I am privileged to lead, thank you for your constant and incredible support of our mission. And thank you for your support of all of law enforcement. Thank you, sir.

The President. And soon, Uttam will not be "Acting," by the way. He's done a great job. So he doesn't know this yet, but soon you will not be "Acting." Congratulations. [Laughter]

Acting Administrator Dhillon: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

The President. Mark.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Mark A. Morgan. Sir. So, first of all, I just want to foot stomp that we will be building 450 miles of big, beautiful wall by the end of two thousand—2020. With every mile of wall that's being built, I promise you, it's not just the cities and towns on the border. I always say: Every town, every city, every State is a border town, a border city, and border State. With every mile of the wall that is being built, we are all safer because of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

[At this point, Acting Commissioner Morgan continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

And, Mr. President—thank you, Mr. President, for your support. I know this man personally, and when he says he loves us, it's sincere, it's heartfelt, and he means it. Thank you, Mr. President. Because—because of our President's support, as a law enforcement profession, we are stronger for it. Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you both. Two great people. Thank you both.

To all the law enforcement partners across the Western Hemisphere, thank you for helping shut down the smugglers, traffickers, and coyotes. Who would have ever thought, in this modern age, human traffickers; you think of it as an ancient crime. It's more prevalent today because of the internet—you understand that well—than ever before, all over the world.

As my administration works tirelessly to protect our borders, we face an onslaught from far-left activists who want to erase America's borders and nullify our Federal laws. We can't let that happen. This includes activist judges who have issued nationwide injunctions prohibiting us from enforcing the immigration laws enacted even by Congress. Just as just one example, Federal law authorities expedited removal for illegal aliens apprehended within 2 years of entry, but a district judge—local area—issued a ruling saying the law could only be applied to illegal aliens caught

within 14 days. That's a tiny fraction of the timeframe allowed by statute. And the number of people coming in is cut to a level that's—becomes almost insignificant. And we'll win as we go up. How long will that take? A year, 2 years? These nationwide injunctions undermine our entire immigration system and other systems.

It's not the job of judges to impose their own political views. Their job is to apply the letter of the law as per our great Constitution. That is why I have already had appointed and approved 158 brandnew Federal judges and Court of Appeals judges, who are committed to upholding the laws and the Constitution as written. We should soon be up to 182. We're way over record territory. Nobody has seen anything like it.

I want to thank you, President Obama, for giving me 142 open judges. How you allowed that to happen is beyond me. *[Laughter]* It's beyond me. Thank you, President Obama, very much. Everybody in this room thanks you. We'll have 182 very shortly.

In cities such as Philadelphia, Boston, and here in Chicago, we have also seen a growing number of radical politicians and prosecutors who refuse to enforce the law. You've heard about that. For example, local prosecutors have declared that they will not charge certain offenders, including many theft and drug crime offenders. They just won't charge them. This is a fundamental violation of their sworn duty.

The most dangerous and shameful attacks on the rule of law comes from and in the form of sanctuary cities. Sanctuary cities order jails and prisons to release criminal illegal aliens—people that have committed the worst crimes—directly back onto city streets, instead of safely turning them over to Federal immigration authorities and ICE so they can be incarcerated or tried or—what I like to do best is—get them the hell out of our country and bring them home. Let them take care of them.

As you know, countries love sending their worst to us, because they don't have to bother with them, they don't have to jail them. "Let the United States do it." Well, we've been very tough on that, as you probably heard, over the last couple of years.

Thousands of removable criminal aliens are set free into U.S. communities every single year because of these policies, terrorizing the public and menacing the peace. Inconceivable that somebody would want it. And a lot of elections are being lost because of sanctuary cities, because people don't want it. We just won two in the great State of North Carolina, two House seats. And they were won by big margins, and I helped. I was very happy about that.

The only problem is, they don't want to write about it. If I lose, it's the greatest catastrophe in the history of our country. *[Laughter]* If I win, they pack up their cameras, and they leave. They don't want to talk about it. Let's not talk about what happened in Louisiana with the Governor's race. Let's not talk about the fact that we picked up two Senate seats in '18. We picked up two; we went from 51 to 53. Nobody knows that. They don't talk about these things, but we talk about them. And hopefully, we talk loudly enough so people understand what's going on and how well we're doing.

Last year alone, here in Illinois, local officials blocked ICE detainers for illegal aliens responsible for hundreds of offenses—including homicide, trafficking deadly drugs, trafficking humans, robbery, and sexual assault.

Just a few weeks ago, near Seattle, Washington, a county jail released an illegal alien MS-13 gang member—the worst—who they previously refused to hand over to ICE. And by the way, ICE, they're heroes; they're patriots. They're tough. They're strong. They're great. Who would do that job? Who would do that job? These are warriors. And they love our country, by the way.

This man went on to murder a 16-year-old boy with a baseball bat, who didn't do anything. He was a young child who was on his way to a beautiful future. He didn't do anything. He murdered him with a bat.

Last year, on the day after Christmas, America grieved when California Police Officer Ronil Singh was murdered by a criminal alien, a known gang member, a tough guy with two prior arrests for bad things, who was released due to sanctuary city laws.

Not one more American life should be stolen from us because a politician puts criminal aliens before American citizens.

So they want open borders. "Everybody, come in. Come on in." They want open borders, and they want sanctuary cities. Forget politics, but you tell me that's good politics? I don't think so. I think you'll find that out.

Here today is someone who can tell you more about the threat posed by sanctuary cities, a career ICE officer and the current ICE Director, a fantastic guy, Matt Albence. Matt, please come up. Thank you, Matt.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Matthew T. Albence. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to address our partners in law enforcement. I would note, the remarks I'm about to make are the same I would have made 2 years ago, 4 years ago, and 6 years ago.

[Acting Director Albence continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

As a career law enforcement officer, I'm imploring all the State and local officers in this room to work with us. Find a way to partner with us for the sake of our communities that we have all sworn to protect and for the sake of our country. And for those that already do, thank you. You will have every ounce of support from ICE that we can provide. The truth of the matter, and one which every person in this room knows: that every community and every cop is safer when law enforcement works together.

Thank you.

The President. Thank you, Matt.

Acting Director Albence. Thank you, sir.

The President. Thank you, Matt. Doing a great job. I mean, honestly, I didn't know he was going to make a speech, when I invited him up, but that's okay. *[Laughter]* Hey, but it was a good speech, Matt, that I can say. *[Laughter]* I didn't know. I said, "Wait a minute, this is—that's 5 pages he's got there." *[Laughter]* No, it's a good 5 pages. And thank you very much, Matt. You're doing a fantastic job.

And we've bring—we've brought out thousands of MS-13 gang members—thousands. We take them out. And we focus on the bad ones. We focus on the worst of the people. And you have people coming in, and you have some really bad ones coming in, and we focus on them. But we've taken out thousands of MS-13 gang members.

Our police put their lives on the frontline for us every day, and you deserve the absolute support of your elected leaders. My administration will always protect those who protect us. Here with us today are three of those heroes who were nominated for the IACP Police Officer of the Year Award: Nick Grivna, Thomas Thompson, and Jonathan Morales. Three great people.

When Minnesota—I just left Minnesota; what a great place. When Minnesota Officer Nick Grivna responded to an active hostage situation, he found the killer holding a knife to the victim. And putting himself in grave danger for very specific reasons, he decided to fire a single shot and

took out the murderer. He's received tremendous praise, and it was a very brave thing to do. A very specific reason.

Grivna, please come forward. Please come up. Thank you. Say a few words. Thank you. Great job.

Virginia, MN, Police Officer Nick Grivna. Thank you, Mr. President. And I thank everyone here. I'm actually speechless. I really don't know what to say. This whole thing is just so surreal to me right now, standing up here before you.

[Officer Grivna continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

But the people I want to thank the most are the people of Virginia. My community rallied behind me, days after the shooting happened. They took to social media by storm, they stopped in at the PD, they called me and showed their love and support for our police department. And I'm very humbled and honored to be working for this department and in a community that supports their police department that much. Thank you, guys. Thank you, sir.

The President. Thank you. Great job.

Texas police officer Thomas Thompson responded to a report of a robbery. When he entered the building, a suspect began to fire violently, but Officer Thompson fired back, and they arrested the criminal, who had quite a record. Quite a bad record.

Officer Thompson, thank you for your courage. Please come forward to the podium. Thank you. Great job.

Lubbock, TX, Police Officer Thomas Thompson. I feel incredibly honored to be here and to be recognized for what is, essentially, just a story of me just doing my job.

The President is right. There is literally hundreds of thousands of law enforcement men and women in this country who are ready and willing to win the moment, when the time comes. I feel very honored to be here, because I won a moment.

[Officer Thompson continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

Finally, and most personally for me, I want to say thank you to my wife. You're my rock and you're my best friend. I love you. Thank you.

The President. Thank you. Say hello to your wife. Thank you very much. Great.

Finally, we are very proud to have with us the hero who was just recently announced as the 2019 Officer of the Year: Border Patrol Agent Jonathan Morales. In May, I met Border Patrol Agent Jonathan Morales when he came to the White House for the National Day of Prayer. Just days before, Agent Morales was off duty attending a service for Passover, when a gunman opened fire at a synagogue in Poway, California. You all read about it. It was terrible.

Without hesitation, Agent Morales raced towards the shooter and began firing back, driving the gunman away from civilians. Agent Morales's swift and selfless action helped save many, many lives. That was terrible. I just want to say, it's great to meet you a second time, Agent Morales. And your courage and strength is really appreciated and so respected by the entire Nation. Would you please come forward?

U.S. Customs and Border Protection El Centro Sector, CA, Patrol Agent Jonathan Morales. Good morning, everybody. Thank you, Mr. President, also for being here with us. You're our biggest supporter in Border Patrol. And we all know, in this day, we need all the support and help we can. So our agency really appreciates what you do.

[Agent Morales continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

And, all my fellow officers out there: Always be safe. Remember, you can't be complacent, even on our off duty, because that's when it always happens, when we least expect it. And, like I said, always be safe out there. And we never are off duty when we take the uniform off. Our mindset, we're still prepared for a worst-case scenario.

So thank you all.

The President. Thank you very much. He's in much better shape right now than he was the last time. And in a very short period of time, he's going to be perfect. Thank you very much. Great bravery. That was a big, big deal.

Each one of these heroes represent the selfless service of more than 685,000 law enforcement officers all across our country. Every day, Americans get up and go to work, our children go safely to school, and our families sleep soundly at night because the people in this room stand guard. You risk your lives, and you save countless others. And I've always heard you risk your lives for, in many cases, people you don't know, people you've never met. It's an incredible thing. And I have to say, in concluding, you have no idea how much the people of this country love you and respect you.

The sight of your badge strikes fear into the hearts of criminals and pride into the hearts of our citizens. When children hear the sirens of your patrol cars, they race to catch a glimpse, because they know that you are the heroes of their streets. And, in many cases, they know that's really what they want to do someday. That's what they want to be. That's what they want to do; they want to be a police officer. They see it.

Out of love for our neighbors, care for our communities, and commitment to our country, we will shield peace-loving, law-abiding Americans from anyone and everyone who would do them harm. We will keep our streets secure, our cities guarded, and our loved ones safe. We will fight violent crime, uphold the peace, enforce the law, and, with God as our witness, we will proudly serve, protect, and defend the citizens of the United States.

To all of the terrific law enforcement officers here today: Thank you for your unwavering courage and your unbreakable devotion. Today, and every day, I vow to stand proudly, loyally, and faithfully with the incredible men and women in blue.

Now, I would like to invite the Attorney General of the United States and the IACP and FOP leadership to join me on stage while I sign our new Commission on Law Enforcement.

God bless you, and God bless our great law enforcement, our police officers. God bless our military, and God bless America. Thank you all very much. Thank you.

[The President signed the Executive order.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. at the McCormick Place Convention Center Chicago. In his remarks, he referred to Paul M. Cell, outgoing president, International Association of Chiefs of Police; actor Jussie Smollett; William S. Belichick, head coach, National Football League's New England Patriots; Rahm I. Emanuel, former mayor, Chicago, IL; Patrick Yoes, president, and James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, Fraternal Order of Police; Michael Blackman, who was arrested in connection with a shooting in the Fulton Market District neighborhood on September 18; Ketanji Brown Jackson, judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; Gustavo Perez Arriaga, suspected gunman in the shooting of Newman, CA, police officer Cpl. Ronil Singh on December 26, 2018; Isaac Knighten, suspect in an armed robbery and shootout at the Coyote Moon Game Room in Lubbock, TX, on August 13, 2018; Celeste Thompson, wife of Ofc. Thompson; and John T. Earnest, suspected gunman in the shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in Poway, CA, on April 27.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, Commission on, establishment, signing the Executive order at International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Exposition in Chicago, IL.

Locations: Chicago, IL.

Names: Albence, Matthew T.; Arriaga, Gustavo Perez; Baghdadi, Abu Bakr al-; Barr, William P.; Belichick, William S.; Biehl, Richard S.; Blackman, Michael; Bost, Michael J.; Carper, Matt; Casstevens, Steven R.; Cell, Paul M.; Davis, Rodney L.; Dhillon, Uttam; Earnest, John T.; Emanuel, Rahm I.; Grivna, Nick; Jackson, Ketanji Brown; Johnson, Eddie; Knighten, Isaac; LaHood, Darin M.; Morales, Jonathan; Morgan, Mark A.; Obama, Barack; Pasco, James O., Jr.; Smollett, Jussie; Thompson, Celeste; Thompson, Thomas; Wazny, Adam; Wazny, Annie; Yoes, Patrick.

Subjects: Armed Forces, U.S. : Servicemembers :: Service and dedication; Army, Department of the : U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; California : Shooting in Poway ; Civil rights : Firearm rights; Communications : News media :: Accuracy and fairness; Congress : Bipartisanship; Congress : House of Representatives :: Impeachment inquiry; Decorations, medals, and awards : Medal of Valor; Decorations, medals, and awards : Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor; Defense and national security : Border security; Drug abuse and trafficking : Addiction treatment and reduction efforts; Drug abuse and trafficking : Foreign narcotics traffickers; Drug abuse and trafficking : Illegal drugs, interdiction efforts; Economy, national : Improvement; Government organization and employees : Federal regulations, review; Health and medical care : Mental health programs and services; Homeland Security, Department of : Customs and Border Protection, U.S.; Homeland Security, Department of : Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S.; Housing : Homelessness; Illinois : President's visit; Immigration and naturalization : Illegal immigration; Judiciary : Federal court nominations and confirmations; Judiciary : Judicial review; Justice, Department of : Attorney General; Justice, Department of : Drug Enforcement Administration; Law enforcement and crime : Community-oriented policing, strengthening efforts; Law enforcement and crime : Crime rate; Law enforcement and crime : Criminal justice system, reform efforts; Law enforcement and crime : Gang violence, prevention efforts; Law enforcement and crime : Gun control; Law enforcement and crime : Gun violence, prevention efforts; Law enforcement and crime : Law enforcement officers, service and dedication; Law enforcement and crime : State and community law enforcement agencies, Federal support; Law enforcement and crime : Surplus military equipment, local law enforcement acquisition; Law enforcement and crime : Trafficking in persons, efforts to combat; Law enforcement and crime : Transnational criminal organizations; Law enforcement and crime : Violence against law enforcement officers, prevention efforts; Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, Commission on; Mexico : Border with U.S., infrastructure and security; Ohio : Dayton :: Shooting; Police, Fraternal Order of; Police, International Association of Chiefs of; Syria : Oil supply and refining; Terrorism : Counterterrorism efforts; Terrorism : Global threat; Terrorism : Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization.

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