



The 15-point Law Enforcement Coalition Plan:

FACT SHEET for Sheriffs, Chiefs, and FOP members

January 4, 2021

SUMMARY: Our 15-point Safe Communities Proposal presents a plan to:

- Modernize the law enforcement profession
- Establish a statewide standardized use of force policy
- Provide more resources for social workers and mental health professionals
- Support ideas that would be beneficial to crime victims, communities, and law enforcement

SUPPORT: Safe Communities and Police Modernization Strategy for 2021

1. Continue to be outspoken advocates for **crime victims**.
2. **Modernize the law enforcement profession:** Strengthen policies and procedures regarding the dismissal and decertification of sworn officers, with appropriate due process, through accountability and transparency
3. Establish a statewide **standardized use of force policy** for all agencies in Illinois.
4. Create pilot projects in some communities for a “**co-responder model**” in which law enforcement would collaborate with social workers and mental health professionals.
5. Support additional **resources for mental health services** and other resources, but these resources should not be used to reduce law enforcement funding.
6. Provide adequate state **funding for** local agencies such as, but not limited to, **local mental health and substance abuse providers, social workers, and county and municipal jails**.
7. **Recognize Illinois’ leadership in reforms:** Here is a partial list of the training already required for Illinois officers on a regular basis: Use of force; civil rights; legal updates; cultural competency; procedural justice (voice, fairness, transparency, impartiality); human rights; sexual assault trauma-informed response.
8. Provide adequate state **funding for all training** requirements, including the academies, and for the additional costs incurred by agencies when other officers are taking the training.
9. Support **broader implementation of body cameras** by eliminating burdensome impediments and costs

that now cause many departments not to use them.

10. Mandate participation in the FBI's **National Use of Force Data Collection** database.
11. **Reporting misconduct:** We support changes that would require agencies to report officers' serious misconduct to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.
12. We support an **expedited collective bargaining arbitration process**, with due process.
13. Keep all decisions about maintaining School Resource Officers and funding them a local decision.
14. We continue to support efforts to promote **officer wellness**.
15. To enhance recruitment of diverse agencies, local governments and community leaders must **share the responsibility for diversity in recruitment**.

OPPOSE: Proposals That Are Detrimental to Communities and Law Enforcement

Some ideas for "police reform" are rooted in *lack of understanding* about what really happens on the street and on ideas that would inadvertently make *citizens and communities far less safe and more fearful*. Therefore:

Oppose efforts to weaken qualified immunity: Many people and politicians mistakenly believe that qualified immunity makes it impossible to sue a police officer or department. That is absolutely not true. Once people understand what qualified immunity, they understand why it's important to cops and to local governments.

Don't eliminate no-knock warrants. They are seldom granted now, but they are a necessary tool depending on the circumstances. Serving warrants is one of the most dangerous activities required of law enforcement professionals, because very often those being served resort to violence.

Don't eliminate the bail system: Safeguards must be in place so that judges can determine whether a person under arrest is a threat to society and the likelihood that the person would actually show up in court. Eliminating bail would reduce the rights of victims and the legitimate fears that crime victims have about becoming the victims of crimes again.

Oppose the "three phone call bill": Detainees are now provided access to phone calls under state law. We already post this information in jails. We would like to know where in Illinois this is a problem, and we oppose expanding *more* "access to phone calls" in a specified time frame because there are circumstances in which that is not possible or practical.

Don't ban "military equipment": Most of the "military equipment" or surplus government equipment being procured by law enforcement is furniture and other office equipment. In addition, untrained citizens think they are seeing "tanks" when in fact it is heavy duty equipment, and many of these tools are essential in saving lives and rescuing innocent civilians.

Don't eliminate sworn affidavits for complaints: We support the right of people to file a complaint against an officer, but we oppose eliminating the sworn affidavit that must accompany a complaint. There would be too many frivolous complaints and "revenge" complaints if this were eliminated, a situation that existed before the sworn affidavit law was created.

The Coalition: Illinois Sheriffs' Association, Executive Director Jim Kaitschuk
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Executive Director Ed Wojcicki
Illinois Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge, Executive Director Chris Southwood
Illinois FOP Labor Council, Executive Director Shawn Roselieb
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