



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

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Expert available for comment

Prosecutors & Police: Justice Department Misguided to Focus on Drug Crimes

Prosecuting Nonviolent Drug Offenses Shifts Resources Away From Violent Crime Prevention

Washington, D.C. – Amid speculation that the Department of Justice is considering a reversal of an Obama administration policy, known as “Smart on Crime,” which directed federal prosecutors to concentrate law enforcement efforts on the most serious criminals, rather than low-level drug crimes, Law Enforcement Leaders issued the following statement from **Law Enforcement Leaders member and former United States Attorney for Utah Brett Tolman**:

“To maintain law and order, we need effective policing and prosecution. The Justice Department’s expected shift to prosecuting and incarcerating more offenders, including low-level and drug offenders, is an ineffective way to protect public safety. Decades of experience shows we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of America’s drug problem. Instead, we must direct resources to treatment and to specifically combatting violent crime. This will help law enforcement do our jobs better.”

Earlier this year, Law Enforcement Leaders released a [five-part policy agenda](#) laying out how the President and Attorney General can best reduce crime and promote public safety. Its first recommendation calls for the Justice Department to focus enforcement on violent and serious crimes.

To schedule an interview with Tolman or learn more about Law Enforcement Leaders, please contact Fiona Druge at Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com or (646) 755-6126.

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About Law Enforcement Leaders

[Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration](#) unites nearly 200 current and former police chiefs, sheriffs, federal and state prosecutors, and attorneys general from all 50 states to urge for a reduction in both crime and incarceration. We believe that the country can reduce incarceration while keeping down crime, and we support changes to our criminal justice system to achieve that goal. See a full list of members [here](#).

For more information on Law Enforcement Leaders, visit www.lawenforcementleaders.org or [@lawleadgroup](#).