

LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUP CALLS FOR STRUCTURAL, FUNCTIONAL CHANGES TO POLICE

Recommendations Endorse Federal Licensing System for Police, Mandatory Data Collection and Transparency, Ending Qualified Immunity, and Independent Oversight

Today, the Law Enforcement Action Partnership ([LEAP](#)) released [policy and practical recommendations](#) to address the urgent need to overhaul American police. Our recommendations, signed by **71** current and retired law enforcement professionals across the US, call on federal, state, and departmental officials to take specific steps to improve accountability, transparency, and oversight into police activities. The document re-envision the role of police by recommending robust funding for evidence-based social support programs that shrink the scope of law enforcement responsibilities and for the limited use of military equipment, both of which would minimize conflict between police and communities.

The recommendations call for an independent database to track police personnel records with a national licensure system for officers; immediate implementation of a duty-to-intervene policy in departments nationwide, requiring officers to intervene when they witness excessive force and misconduct by their colleagues and report incidents to superiors; and ending the union contract-mandated destruction of personnel records that erase evidence of officer misconduct. The recommendations also call upon Congress to “establish a national standard for the use of deadly force that upholds the sanctity of human life” and urges federal action to address qualified immunity, a legal precedent that limits law enforcement accountability when cases go to court.

“Accountability measures that show an agency is serious about respecting the rights of all of its residents help the police as much as they help the communities we serve,” said [Police Major Neill Franklin \(Ret.\)](#), a 34-year law enforcement veteran and executive director of LEAP. “There’s no better way to restore community trust. And we cannot do our jobs without trust.”

“People are not protesting out of boredom; they are tired of watching their loved ones and neighbors die during police encounters. The only way to subdue the chaos we’re witnessing in cities across the US is to reevaluate how policing is done, create consistent accountability standards between the thousands of agencies nationwide, and build a new system that truly serves civilians,” said [Chief Brendan Cox \(Ret.\)](#), a 23-year law enforcement veteran who retired from the Albany Police Department of New York in 2017.

LEAP calls on their brothers and sisters in uniform and those retired from service who see the need for change to join them in publicly endorsing these recommendations. Swift, decisive action is the only way to improve police-community relations over the long term and de-escalate social unrest in the near term.