



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

121 Mystic Avenue, Suite 9
Medford, Massachusetts 02155
T: (781) 393.6985

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July 7, 2021

Re: Support for the Nomination of Chief Chris Magnus to Commissioner of
Customs & Border Protection

To: The United States Senate Finance Committee

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to support Chief Chris Magnus's nomination to Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection. As police, judges, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals across the US who have worked alongside Magnus at the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), we heartily offer our endorsement of his nomination and look forward to seeing him bring CBP into the 21st century.

Magnus has a superior reputation as a forward-thinking police leader in the movement to transform law enforcement in our country. Officers at the Tucson Police Department speak highly of the restorative justice-based internal discipline model Magnus designed and implemented, which rewards honesty and accountability above the outdated "blue wall of silence." According to officers in the department, this internal practice has boosted morale; improved officer effectiveness; and enabled them to see the people they serve with fresh eyes, supporting practices and policies that are smarter - not simply tougher - on crime.

In 2019, a representative from the Tucson Police Department presented their restorative justice model on behalf of Chief Magnus to the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference, a 1600-person event that brought together leaders who promote alternatives to punitive discipline in institutions and communities. Chief Magnus and his department's willingness to reach into this vast network of practitioners - many of whom feel animosity toward police - demonstrated his capacity to go beyond the usual expectations of police and do the difficult work of building bridges where strong relationships are most needed.

Chief Magnus has consistently supported efforts to treat drug use as a public health issue and endorsed harm reduction programs that would save public safety resources, improve law enforcement effectiveness, and save lives. He clearly understands the difference between individuals suffering from substance use disorder and the cartels that bring immeasurable quantities of drugs across our border, a distinction that has been as important to his work as a police chief as it will be to his role as CBP commissioner. He is perfectly oriented to bring reasonable and effective solutions that will secure our borders and fix our broken immigration system.

While this letter barely scratches the surface of his illustrious public service career, we are confident that the Committee will receive the evidence it needs to support our colleague on the next step in his journey. To our knowledge, Chief Magnus has fulfilled his oath to protect and serve with the utmost integrity. We believe his skill, compassion, and level-headed approach to all areas of public safety will serve Americans and the people coming to our country who wish to call America home.

Respectfully,

Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.)
Executive Director
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David Brown
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Det. Sgt. J. Gary Nelson (Ret.)
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Glendale Police Department Reserves
Peoria, AZ

Inge Fryklund
Former Assistant State's Attorney
Cook County, IL
Policy Advisor to Afghanistan
Bend, OR