POLICE GROUP ENDORSES EFFORTS OF #DECRIMPOVERTYDC

Washington, DC — On Friday, the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), endorsed the District of Columbia Drug Policy Reform Act, sponsored by the #DecrimPovertyDC Campaign. In short, this proposal would replace failing enforcement-first policies—which disproportionately affect Black, Latinx, and other underserved populations in the District of Columbia—with evidence-based solutions that have proven successful elsewhere.

"By centering harm-reduction approaches and other evidence-based solutions, this proposal offers dignity and compassion to people who use drugs instead of criminalizing and ostracizing them," said Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.), current executive director of LEAP. "Tough-on-crime policies hurt individuals and communities, and frankly, they don't work. It's time to get out of the business of ruining lives and into the business of saving them. We urge D.C. Councilmembers to swiftly introduce and advance Decrim Poverty DC's legislative proposal to scale back failed drug policies and center public health interventions in addressing drug use and misuse in the District."

LEAP supports this proposal because it begins to address the lifelong collateral damage that the War on Drugs causes for both individuals and entire communities. Most importantly, investing in evidence-based solutions and treating substance use as a public health priority will save lives. In Portugal, which decriminalized the use, acquisition, and possession of drugs in 2000, fatal overdoses caused by tainted drug supply fell drastically in the years that followed.

LEAP will remain steadfast in its support of legislative proposals designed to make our communities safer, helping law enforcement to more effectively do their jobs.

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