

NAPO Participates In Series of White House Meetings

At the end of August, the White House held a series of meetings on the issues of immigration reform, gang and crime prevention and the national drug control strategy, at which NAPO was the sole rank-and-file law enforcement organization in attendance.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On August 20, 2009, the White House held a meeting with **Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano** and various stakeholder groups to discuss comprehensive immigration reform. It was more of a listening session for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to hear the issues, concerns and advice of those in the community with a stake in immigration reform. NAPO advocated for the 287(g) program and urged the Department not to further weaken the Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) it has with local law enforcement agencies.

While NAPO was joined in supporting the program, there were also groups present who voiced their opposition to it and we were not sure which direction the Administration would go with the program, particularly after it changed the MOAs. However, at the end of the meeting, the President spoke to the participants and clearly stated that the administration will continue to support the 287(g) program. The President added that although he and Secretary Napolitano back the program, DHS will have greater oversight over the agencies acting under a MOA to ensure that there is no abuse of the powers granted to them. This oversight is reflected in the new MOAs, so this announcement was not a surprise to NAPO.

To reinforce our stance in support of the 287(g) program and to respond to the opposing arguments, NAPO sent the President a letter on September 4, 2009, outlining why the program is important for state and local law enforcement and addressing the concerns expressed by the opponents. We will continue to work with the administration and DHS to ensure that the 287(g) program is supported and that state and local law enforcement agencies, particularly those along our Southwest Border, are given the resources needed to secure the safety of our communities.

Gang Violence Prevention and Crime Control

On August 24, 2009, NAPO attended the White House National Conference on Gang Violence Prevention and Crime Control, which brought together **Attorney General Eric Holder**, the **Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Gil Kerlikowski**, mayors, law enforcement, community representatives and scholars to discuss emerging strategies to combat gang violence and criminal activity. It addressed topics such as effective policing strategies, disrupting gang recruitment and the role of the federal government in community-driven gang violence and crime prevention solutions. The conference participants were all supporters and practitioners of community policing and the overall accomplishment of the conference was promoting and sharing best practices for communities to combat gangs and violent crime. What NAPO took from this conference is that the administration is dedicated to rebuilding our nation's community policing services and it is willing to work with and listen to the practitioners and proponents of community policing to do so.

2010 National Drug Control Strategy

On August 27, 2009, the Office of National Drug Control Policy held a meeting with state, local and tribal criminal justice and law enforcement organizations to discuss the 2010 National Drug Control Strategy. The main discussion centered on two facts: that there has been no comprehensive national drug control strategy and that there has been a lack of funding and resources for communities for drug prevention, treatment and enforcement measures. Reentry and continuity of drug treatment from institution to community were also major issues discussed. NAPO believes that any national strategy needs to blend prevention, intervention and enforcement in order that we can fight the problem from all sides and that to be successful, information sharing and partnerships are key at all levels of government. NAPO hopes that Director Kerlikowski takes into consideration the concerns raised and that they will be reflected in the final 2010 National Drug Control Strategy.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, "Kimosabe, look towards sky; what you see?"

The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."

"What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies. Theologically, the Lord is all powerful, and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Tonto?"

"You dumber than buffalo dung. Someone stole tent."

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A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady.

She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts.

She repeats this gesture about five more times.

When she is about to hand him another batch again he asks the little old lady, "Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?"

"We can't chew them because we've no teeth," she replied.

The puzzled driver asks, "Why do you buy them then?" The old lady replied, "We just love the chocolate around them."

Hitch Receiver Cover

Florida PBA has recently added the PBA Hitch Receiver Cover to its list of items available for **MEMBERS ONLY** to purchase. It is blue high density plastic with gold printing. The cover comes with spring pin (shown) or you can use your own hitch pin. There are two sizes for either 2" or 1 1/4" receivers (please specify which size you need). Display them proudly on your vehicle or give them as a gift to your family and friends.

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