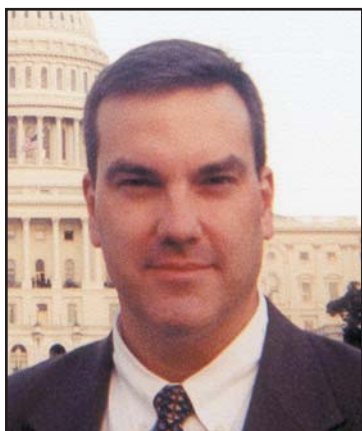




National Association of Police Organizations

NAPO News

Attorney General Holder Addresses Big 50 Leadership



Former PBA attorney Bill Johnson is the Executive Director of NAPO.

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is a coalition of law enforcement unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement and corrections officers through legislative and legal advocacy, political action and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 2,000 police unions and associations, 236,000 sworn law enforcement officers, 11,000 retired officers and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement. Florida PBA, Palm Beach County PBA, and Dade County PBA are members of NAPO.

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The Half-Wit

A man owned a small farm in South Carolina. The South Carolina Wage & Hours Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the Agent.

"Well," replied the farmer, "there's my farm hand who's been with me for three years. I pay him \$400.00 a week plus free room and board.

"The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$300.00 per week plus free room and board.

"Then there's the half-wit. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10.00 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of Bourbon every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally."

"That's the guy I want to talk to...the half-wit," says the Agent.

"That would be me," replied the farmer.

On April 17, 2009, **Attorney General Eric Holder** addressed the Harvard Law School Labor and Worklife Program's Police Union Leadership Seminar, the "Big 50 Seminar," in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Attorney General reached out to **NAPO President Tom Nee** and voiced his desire to speak with the leadership of our nation's rank and file law enforcement community and Tom Nee thought the Big 50 Seminar would be the perfect opportunity. This seminar brings together the leadership of the police unions from the nation's 50 largest cities for three days to discuss pertinent issues facing officers and associations. The Attorney General was welcomed to the event by President Nee, **Executive Director Bill Johnson**, and **Director of Governmental Affairs Andy Mournighan**.

In his speech to the group, the Attorney General addressed his priorities for the Justice Department, both short and long term. His short term priorities consist of initiatives that deal with the issues of gangs, drugs, crime along the Southwest Border, and economic crime. His

long-term priorities focus on the challenges being faced by federal, state and local law enforcement. These "mutual concerns" include the need to enhance and improve forensic science and technologies, improve communication and coordination between federal, state and local law enforcement, and the need for the federal government to provide essential resources to state and local law enforcement to fight crime and to prevent future acts of terrorism against our nation.

The Attorney General renewed the Justice Department's commitment to the COPS Hiring Program and the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program. Importantly, he stated that the Justice Department will be a full partner with state and local law enforcement in their work to fight crime.

NAPO is grateful to Attorney General Holder for taking the time out of his busy schedule to address the leadership of the police unions of our nation's fifty largest cities. NAPO looks forward to building on our mutual, working partnership with the Attorney General and the Justice Department.

COPS Hiring Recovery Program Update

The application period for the COPS hiring grant program closed at midnight on April 14, 2009.

The COPS Office received over 7,200 applications requesting \$8.4 billion dollars and nearly 40,000 positions. However, the program only has \$1 billion to allocate to states and localities that they hope will hire, rehire and retain between 5,000 and 6,000 law enforcement officers.

In his speech to the Big 50 participants, **Attorney General Holder** recognized that the current funding levels and federal support for the program are not enough. He pledged that the Department of Justice will expand the COPS Hiring Recovery Program and will increase federal assistance to state and local agencies to assist them in

meeting the law enforcement needs of our nation's communities. The funding given to state and local law enforcement through the Recovery Act cannot be a one-shot deal; there has to be a long-term commitment by the federal government to support our nation's law enforcement in their fight against crime. NAPO continues to work to ensure our members get the resources and tools they need to efficiently and effectively serve and protect their communities.

The COPS Office will be reviewing applications over the coming weeks and all applicants will be notified whether they will receive CHRP funding no later than September 30, 2009.

House Passes COPS Improvements Act

On April 23, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 1139, the "COPS Improvements Act of 2009," by a vote of 342-78. H.R. 1139 will enhance and expand the COPS Program and increase the authorization level of the COPS Hiring Program to \$1.8 billion annually (it was previously authorized at \$600 million).

With the support of the COPS Program, community policing has been a dominant force behind the dramatic reduction in crime this nation has witnessed over the past 13 years. In 2000, violent crime rates were at their lowest level in thirty years, particularly in large cities. More police officers patrolling the streets not only provide greater police presence in our communities but also increase police knowledge of crime problems. Thus, allowing law enforcement to do its job more efficiently and effectively.

Additionally, restoring federal support for state and local law enforcement is an effective way not only to protect our neighborhoods, but also to create jobs and begin rebuilding our local economies with confidence. Increasing the funding for the COPS hiring program also greatly assists police departments retain their qualified, active officers who have relationships with the communities. The retention of police officers who know their neighborhoods is an integral part of community policing.

NAPO wholeheartedly supports increasing the authorized level of funding for the COPS program; however, we believe that the increased level of funding cannot be an empty promise. It is imperative that Congress fully fund the COPS at its authorized level.

NAPO Meets With White House Counterterrorism and Homeland Security Team

On March 16, 2009, NAPO was summoned to the White House by the Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism and Homeland Security to review ways to reform the White House organization for counterterrorism and homeland security. **President Tom Nee** and **Executive Director Bill Johnson** attended the meeting on behalf of NAPO.

NAPO was the sole rank and file law enforcement group invited to meet with the White House counterterrorism and homeland security team. NAPO was joined at the meeting by

the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the National Sheriffs Association. Tom Nee and Bill Johnson used this opportunity to push the White House to provide more resources, funding and support to state and local law enforcement for homeland security and counterterrorism.

This meeting is just one of many in which NAPO will be asked to provide guidance on White House and administration policy that concerns law enforcement. On April 9, **Andy Mournighan**, NAPO's Director of