



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

PRECONFERENCE ACTIVITIES AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION SESSIONS



CITY SUMMIT

KANSAS CITY, MO • NOVEMBER 17-19 2022

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Memorandum

TO: Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Federal Advocacy Committee

RE: 2022 PSCP Federal Advocacy Committee Report

Enclosed is the PSCP committee report for 2022. This report contains recommended policy amendments and resolutions from the PSCP Committee. Please carefully review these proposals in advance of the upcoming City Summit.

The HD Federal Advocacy Committee will meet in Kansas City, MO during City Summit on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 from 3-5 p.m. central in room 2503B at the convention center.

The primary role of NLC's Federal Advocacy committees is to oversee the regular review and updating of the [National Municipal Policy](#) to ensure that it reflects the view of local officials on current and emerging federal policy issues. Adopted positions are used to guide NLC's federal advocacy efforts, shape public policy debates, and communicate positions with the media, Congress and the Administration, and other stakeholders. In addition to developing federal policy, the committees serve as advocates on behalf of our cities, towns and villages and lead on finding solutions to local challenges.

The PSCP Federal Advocacy Committee has worked diligently to recommend policy changes and pursue initiatives under our Committee's jurisdiction. If you have any questions about the proposals in this report, please feel free to contact the Yucel (u-jel) Ors, NLC staff contact for the PSCP Committee.



Procedures for the Adoption of National Municipal Policy and Resolutions City Summit

The *National Municipal Policy (NMP)* is NLC's comprehensive, standing statement of goals, principles, policies, and program objectives on federal policy issues directly affecting or of concern to cities and towns. The *NMP* serves as the basis for NLC's advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation's cities and towns. The policy is subject to annual modification by delegates from direct member cities and state municipal leagues during the City Summit.

Because the opportunity for the membership to amend the *NMP* occurs only once each year, amendments to the policy typically do not endorse or oppose specific congressional bills, current presidential positions, or technical aspects of federal regulations. Instead, positions on such timely matters—which are subject to major changes during the annual legislative and administrative processes—are the subject of NLC resolutions that stand for one year, from their time of passage until the adjournment of the next City Summit.

At the Congressional Cities Conference in March, the Federal Advocacy Committees set agendas for the year. At the meeting(s) following the Conference, the committees develop recommendations for policy amendments and resolutions. Additionally, during the summer, all NLC direct member cities and state municipal leagues were invited to submit recommendations of policy amendments and resolutions.

Prior to the City Summit, committee reports with policy amendments and proposed resolutions are made available to all Federal Advocacy Committee members and NLC members. These reports are also made available on the NLC website.

Federal Advocacy Committee Meetings

NLC's Federal Advocacy Committees will each meet on Wednesday at the City Summit. The Official Rules and Procedures presented here and in the NLC Bylaws shall govern the conduct of each committee meeting. In the event that procedural matters arise that are not addressed by the Official Rules or Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the conduct of the meeting.

During the Federal Advocacy Committee meeting, action can be taken on policy amendments or resolutions submitted to NLC by the submission deadline if the committee did not endorse those positions. Sponsors of these amendments or resolutions, or their representatives, can appear before the Federal Advocacy Committee on behalf of their proposed recommendations. The

Federal Advocacy Committee can also hear additional proposals from the floor from committee members.

Individuals submitting resolutions or policy changes on-site must bring 100 copies to the meeting and furnish them to the head table at the beginning of the meeting. An electronic copy of the proposal should also be provided, in advance if possible, to the NLC staff contact for the committee. (NLC staff should be notified in advance of this intention if at all possible.)

Federal Advocacy Committee meetings are open to all conference participants. However, only committee members are eligible to vote, make formal motions, and debate items. Committee members will receive identification ribbons at the conference registration booth.

Adoption of recommendations is by a majority vote of Federal Advocacy Committee members present and voting. Proxies are not permitted. Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that the views of all committee members are heard.

Resolutions Committee Meeting

Proposals approved by the Federal Advocacy Committees are forwarded to the NLC Resolutions Committee for consideration. The Resolutions Committee will meet during the City Summit on Thursday. The Federal Advocacy Committee chairs will report the recommendations of their respective committees to the Resolutions Committee members.

In addition to these amendments and resolutions, the Resolutions Committee will consider any appeals by sponsors of policy amendments or resolutions received in NLC's offices in advance submission deadline and subsequently rejected during the Federal Advocacy Committee debate (100 copies needed). Proposals from Resolutions Committee members or the Board of Directors also are eligible for consideration by the Resolutions Committee (100 copies needed).

Only Resolutions Committee members or alternates appointed by state municipal leagues may participate and vote during the meeting. The only individuals who will be recognized to speak at the Resolutions Committee are members of the Resolutions Committee, board members, Federal Advocacy Committee chairs, and sponsors of policy recommendations being appealed. Recommendations are adopted by a majority vote of Resolutions Committee members present and voting. Proxies are not allowed.

The Official Rules and Procedures presented here and in the NLC Bylaws shall govern the conduct of the Resolutions Committee meeting. In the event that procedural matters arise that are not addressed by the Official Rules or Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the conduct of the meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

Resolutions Committee actions are referred to the Annual Business Meeting for consideration and adoption by the voting delegates. The report of the Resolutions Committee will include only recommended policy language amendments and resolutions.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held during the City Summit on Saturday.

To cast a vote at the Annual Business Meeting, all voting or alternate delegates must be registered with the Credentials Committee and must have official voting materials. Each direct member city has a certified voting delegate, or alternate, who is entitled to vote at the Annual Business Meeting. The delegate may cast a certain number of votes based upon the direct member city's population as of the 2010 census; member cities may not split their votes. Each state municipal league is entitled to cast a total of 20 votes by its delegate or delegates, and those votes may be split and distributed at the discretion of each state municipal league. Voting delegates must be present to vote. Proxies are not permitted.

After a brief presentation of the Resolutions Committee's report, the Annual Business Meeting's Presiding Officer will call for the adoption of *NMP* amendments and resolutions as proposed by the Resolutions Committee. Amendments to each chapter will be considered in the order in which those chapters appear in the *NMP*. Motions from the floor to amend the Resolutions Committee's recommendations require a majority vote for passage. The final adoption of amendments to the *NMP* requires a two-thirds vote of voting delegates.

Policy proposals not submitted by the Resolutions Committee may be presented by petition to the NLC Policy Office at the City Summit. Such petitions must be received by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Annual Business Meeting. Petitions must carry the text of the proposal and printed names, titles, and signatures of 10 certified voting delegates with their respective cities and states. The petition must receive a majority vote of the voting delegates to be accepted for floor consideration, and all proposals to amend or adopt the *NMP* and all separate resolutions require a two-thirds vote for final approval.

The Official Rules and Procedures presented here and in the NLC Bylaws shall govern the conduct of the Annual Business Meeting. In the event that procedural matters arise that are not addressed by the Official Rules or Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the conduct of the meeting.



Public Safety and Crime Prevention Federal Advocacy Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
Kanas City Convention Center Room 2503 B

3:00:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

3:05:00 PM

Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Overview

The Honorable Joel Navarro

Chair and Councilmember, City of Tempe

3:10:00 PM

NLC Officer Greeting

The Honorable David Sanders

NLC Second Vice President, Councilmember, Rancho Cordova, CA

3:15:00 PM

NLC Executive Partner Presentation: Peregrine Technologies

Peregrine helps Police Departments and Cities to integrate their siloed data systems into one, enabling a multitude of public benefits to city leaders from increased efficiencies in police operations to the ability to disaggregate data more effectively while increasing transparency of department operations.

This presentation will quickly go over Peregrine's unique one-stop shop for police data and offer a chance for the PSCP Committee to learn first hand how to bring this solution to your respective cities.

3:30:00 PM

Review and Final Approval of the 2023 PSCP Resolutions and Policy Amendments

Yucel (u-jel) Ors

*Legislative Director, Public Safety
National League of Cities*

4:00:00 PM

NLC Sustainability Program

Peyton Siler Jones
Program Director, Sustainability
National League of Cities

4:20:00 PM

Federal Advocacy Update

Yucel (u-jel) Ors
Legislative Director, Public Safety
National League of Cities

4:40:00 PM

NLC's 2023 Public Safety Legislative Priorities

4:55:00 PM

Other Business

5:00:00 PM

Adjourn

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

**Public Safety and Crime Prevention
Federal Advocacy Committee**

PSCP

Proposed Policy Amendments

Only sections of the *NLC National Municipal Policy (NMP)* where modifications are proposed are reproduced in this report. The complete text of the current *NMP*, divided into seven policy chapters, can be found at nlc.org/national-municipal-policy

Please note:

- Proposed new language is underlined;
- Proposed language for deletion is struck out; and
- Existing, unchanged language is shown as plain text.

Policy:

- **Section 6.01 – Crime Prevention**
 - O. Law Enforcement Training and Accountability
 - 1. Problem Statement
 - 2. Goals
 - P. Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement Officers
- **Section 6.02 – Public Safety**
 - C. Public Safety Technology and Intelligence
 - 6. Less-lethal Technology
 - E. Mental Health and Public Safety
 - 1. First Responder PTSD
 - F. Medical and Adult-use of Cannabis
- **Section 6.03 – Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response**
 - K. Disaster Insurance
 - 1. National Flood Insurance Program
 - 2. Other Natural Disaster Insurance
 - 3. Mitigation
 - 4. Disaster Mapping

Proposed Policy Amendments

Section 6.01 – Crime Prevention

O. Law Enforcement Training and Accountability

1. Problem Statement

The police officer-involved killings of Black people and people of color continue to expose racially divisive issues in the relationships between local police and the communities they are sworn to protect and serve, especially in communities of color. NLC believes that trust between law enforcement officers and the people they serve and protect is essential to a municipality's stability, the integrity of our criminal justice system, and the safe and effective delivery of policing services.

When governing a municipality, nothing is more important for local officials than protecting the public's safety. In our civil society, local elected officials are responsible for managing a municipality's public safety programs, including its police department. The goal of managing law enforcement efforts by municipal governments must be to provide a safe, healthy environment in which all residents can live free from violence, fear, harassment, discrimination, and intimidation.

Unfortunately, our country has a long history of disparate treatment of Black, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian Americans, especially Black and Latino people in our criminal justice system. The excessive use of force by law enforcement has shown that discriminatory enforcement of criminal laws has a corrosive effect that undermines the community's confidence in law enforcement and interferes with our efforts to keep all members of the community safe.

2. Goals

Local elected leaders must hold law enforcement officials accountable for unjustified, unnecessary actions that result in an abuse of power. Holding municipal employees, including law enforcement officers, accountable is the primary responsibility of local government officials. However, some state laws and labor union contracts limit the ability of local governments to hold law enforcement officers accountable.

Local elected officials should work closely with their municipality's law enforcement executives and residents to ensure police officers have the support, resources, and training they need to serve their communities with honor, integrity, moral character, and courage.

NLC believes the federal government should provide financial and technical assistance to local governments to help them implement policies that would:

- ensure the law enforcement agency complies with the U.S. Department of Justice's Use of Force Continuum;
- prohibit maneuvers such as chokeholds that are intended to limit a person's ability to breathe or restrict a person's blood flow;
- authorize the use of "lethal" or "less lethal" force when the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed or intends to commit a felony involving serious bodily injury or death, and the officer reasonably believes that there is an imminent¹ risk

¹ An immediate, or imminent threat can be described as danger from an individual whose apparent intent is to inflict serious bodily injury or death and the individual has the ability and opportunity to realize this intention. (source: https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/National_Consensus_Policy_On_Use_Of_Force%2007102020%20v3.pdf)

Proposed Policy Amendments

of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another if the subject is not immediately apprehended;

- require officers to use de-escalation techniques when there is no imminent danger to life and property;
- require other officers that are at the scene of the incident to intervene and stop the use of force by the officer(s), including using their arresting authority, if they believe the actions are unwarranted, unnecessary, or are an abuse of power by the officer(s);
- ensure the law enforcement agency can log all use of lethal or less lethal force by officers to a national database that is searchable and available to the public;
- require officers who use force when it is not necessary to be relieved of duty;
- require officers equipped with body-worn cameras to make sure the cameras are in recording mode anytime the officer is engaged in a potential incident that might require the use of force;
- prohibit officers from restricting witnesses to video record the use of force by an officer(s);
- ensure the public can call 9-1-1 or use an online reporting system when they believe an officer's use of force is unwarranted or is in violation of an individual's civil rights;
- ensure law enforcement officers and other public safety employees are provided whistleblower protections when they report an officer use of force violation; and
- require that all lethal and less lethal use of force actions be thoroughly investigated to ensure the incident warranted the use of force; and
- requiring law enforcement executives to take immediate disciplinary action against an officer who used lethal or less lethal force if it is determined that the use of force was unwarranted, unnecessary, excessive, or was an abuse of power.

NLC supports federal efforts to strengthen the local government's ability to hold law enforcement officers accountable for discrimination, criminal misconduct, or excessive use of force violations. In cases where it has been determined that the actions of a law enforcement officer or officers discriminated against an individual's civil rights, resulted in criminal misconduct, or violated the law enforcement agency's use of force policies, the local government should have full authority to terminate the employment of a law enforcement officer or officers in accordance with established due process rules and principles to safeguard against wrongful termination.

NLC calls on Congress to:

- provide additional funding for the community-oriented policing grant program to help local law enforcement agencies implement and improve racial bias and de-escalation training; and
- prioritize the awarding of the above funding to target municipalities that have repeatedly been cited for lethal or less lethal use of force violations, civil rights violations, or abuse of power by officers; and
- provide additional federal funding and technical assistance to local governments to help administer mental health and wellness services to law enforcement officers; and
- establish a National Database of Decertified Officers that **ONLY** law enforcement agencies and state and local governments can access to vet officers who have been dismissed for

Proposed Policy Amendments

such issues as unnecessary or excessive use of force, abuse of power, racial discrimination, and violation of individual's civil rights; and

- provide technical and grant assistance to local governments to establish transparent civilian oversight boards to investigate officer use of force violations.

P. Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement Officers

Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine established by the U.S. Supreme Court that grants government officials, including municipal law enforcement officers, immunity from money damages for civil rights violations as long as the official did not violate a "clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known. While NLC opposes federal legislation that would eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement officers, NLC does believe that Congress and the courts should consider changes to the doctrine of qualified immunity for law enforcement officers to ensure greater accountability. NLC supports federal efforts to strengthen local government's ability to hold law enforcement officers accountable for discrimination, criminal misconduct, or excessive use of force violation.

Proposed Policy Amendments

Section 6.02 – Public Safety

C. Public Safety Technology and Intelligence

6. Less-lethal Technology

Currently, less-lethal projectile devices for law enforcement are defined as a “firearm” under the Gun Control Act (GCA) of 1968, since there is no federal definition for less-lethal technology. The development of more effective, less-lethal projectile devices that can be used in lieu of lethal force are being stifled by the arbitrary application of the GCA.

The National League of Cities supports the Federal adoption of a definition for less-lethal projectile devices that would not classify them as firearm. NLC urges the federal government to support industry-wide research and development into less-lethal technology, better de-escalation training, and to support efforts to reduce fatal officer-involved shootings.

E. Mental Health and Public Safety (Incorporated Resolution)

1. First Responder PTSD

First responders charged with protecting life and property may experience a broad range of health and mental wellness consequences due to work-related exposures to traumatic incidents that include violent acts, death, and destruction. These “first responders” include municipal law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical employees who are responsible for the protection and preservation of life and property, and municipal emergency responders and public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers that provide immediate support services during a traumatic incident that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to themselves or others. Constant exposure to traumatic incidents involving death, dismemberment, abuse, violence, and destruction may exert a psychological toll on first responders, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, depression, and even suicide.

Establishing robust prevention and early intervention systems that include crisis hotlines, routine mental health checks, and peer and family support programs can be critical components of first responder mental health and wellness programs, provided they are appropriately researched and resourced.

While first responders may have access to support services to help reduce the risk of post-traumatic stress, studies have shown that they are less likely to seek because they are concerned about how they would be viewed at work if they had sought support. Studies have shown that concerns over the stigma and scrutiny from others about contemplating or attempting suicide is one of the primary reasons that prevents first responders from seeking help. When first responders know and recognize the indicators or warning signs of an impending crisis and have the skills to talk to someone with mental illness, they are more likely to be comfortable confronting or breaking down the stigma about saying something to a peer or recognizing the warning signs for a self-referral.

NLC urges Congress to establish a federal program, similar to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD program, within the Department of Health and Human Services that would:

- develop resources and training programs for community-based clinicians who interact with first responders and their families to help them better understand the unique risks facing

Proposed Policy Amendments

their clients and what health and wellness programs may be available to them as members of the first responder community

- provide technical assistance to support the development of model policies and implementation guidance for public safety agencies to make substantial efforts to reduce the first responder PTSD and suicide
- establish a national crisis hotline for first responders
- conduct research to determine the efficacy of regular mental health checks, establish which approaches are most effective, and provide resources that move public safety agencies toward best practices to reduce mental health issues among first responders
- establish remote access or regional mental health check programs to help first responders in small cities, towns and villages
- assist local public safety agencies in implementing peer support programs to ensure all first responders have access to this important wellness service

Congress should also improve the legislative privacy protections for first responders seeking assistance from peer crisis lines and other peer-support programs.

2. Resident Impacted by Crime and Emergency

Major criminal incidents and emergencies have a significant impact on the psyche of citizens and first responders alike. Immediate support after traumatic incidents can ensure that witnesses provide first responders with more lucid descriptions of the event and prevent significant long-term mental health concerns. ~~First responders to traumatic events also require psychological support. In both cases, psychological conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder, or substance abuse may develop or worsen if not addressed.~~

Psychological first aid, crisis counseling, and response worker support are all key to mitigating these issues. The federal government should assist with resources and the coordination of non-profit entities and state and local governments to ensure a continuum of care is available to victims of crimes and disasters—particularly after major emergencies and incidents. These efforts must include awareness and education of access to behavioral health treatment to prevent negative effects following a devastating event.

F. Medical and Adult-use of Cannabis (Incorporated Resolution)

Since 1996, a significant majority of states have legalized the medical use of cannabis and an increasing number of states, and the District of Columbia have or are considering legalizing the adult use of cannabis.

To allow for greater regulation of the growing cannabis industry, the federal government should consider rescheduling cannabis by removing it from Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act. After rescheduling cannabis, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration should establish federal regulations for the manufacturing, distribution and sale of legal medical and adult-use cannabis.

Proposed Policy Amendments

88 As states legalize the medical and adult recreational use of cannabis, Congress must also ensure
89 local governments can establish laws and regulations on the manufacturing, distribution, and sale
90 of medical and adult-use cannabis within their jurisdiction.

91 States and local governments that collect tax revenues from legalized medical and adult-use
92 cannabis should also be able to use the funding for local public safety programs, drug treatment
93 and mental health centers, housing programs, and after-school programs.

94

Proposed Policy Amendments

Section 6.03 – Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response

K. Disaster Insurance

The increase in floods, wildfires, earthquakes and other natural disasters makes it more complex and expensive for homeowners and businesses to purchase private insurance to recover after a natural disaster hits a community. Private insurance for natural disasters such as wildfires and earthquakes is quickly becoming unaffordable or unavailable, significantly impacting local real estate markets and the economy.

1. National Flood Insurance Program

- Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in exchange for using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) generated and specified Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) for floodplain management by a participating community.
- The NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best practices, and techniques.
- These mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures, thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and elected officials.
- Congress must provide a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP to keep flood insurance rates affordable for primary, non-primary, and business properties while balancing the program's fiscal solvency.

2. Other Natural Disaster Insurances

Congress needs to ensure that the federal government can guarantee property owners have access to affordable insurance rates to cover losses from wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.

3. Mitigation

The federal government should work with state and local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters. The federal government should also encourage lending institutions to incorporate mitigation provisions as conditions for loans.

4. Disaster Mapping

For local governments to help their communities and homeowners adequately prepare for risk, Congress should provide additional resources to FEMA to utilize the best technology and methods available to improve the mapping process, including seeking input from local government officials before approving any flood, wildfire or disaster-related map that could impact local zoning rules.

Proposed PSCP Resolutions

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the PSCP Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The PSCP resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

Resolution	PSCP Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2022-39: In Support of Legislation to Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to Ensure Property Owners are Able to Afford Insurance for Other Natural Disasters Such as Wildland Fires and Earthquakes	Incorporate – See Section 6.03.K
NLC RESOLUTION 2022-40: In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure State and Local Governments Have the Authority to Regulate the Manufacturing, Distribution and Sale of Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis	Incorporate – See Section 6.02.F
NLC RESOLUTION 2022-41: In Support of Federal Efforts to Prevent and Treat First Responder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	Incorporate – See Section 6.02.E
NLC RESOLUTION 2022-42: On the Use of Force by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers	Incorporate – See Section 6.01.O
NLC RESOLUTION 2022-43: In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce	Renew with amendments
NLC RESOLUTION 2022-44: In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure Local Governments Can Hold Law Enforcement Officers Accountable	Incorporate - See Section 6.01.O and 6.01.P
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1: Urging the Federal Government to Provide Direct Funding and Assistance to Cities, Towns, and Villages to Support Violence Prevention Programs	Adopt
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2: Local Governments Need Direct and Sustainable	Adopt

Proposed Policy Amendments

Federal Funding to Help Residents Who Call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in Time of Crises	
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 3: In Support of Federal, State and Local Efforts to Stop the Illegal Trafficking of Fentanyl	Pending

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-43

2
3 IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN A DIVERSE
4 PUBLIC SAFETY WORKFORCE

5
6 PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits
7

8 WHEREAS, municipalities across the country are having a difficult time recruiting and
9 retaining qualified and racially diverse public safety employees; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the difficulty in recruiting and retaining public safety employees includes sworn
12 and unsworn law enforcement officers, volunteer and paid firefighters, emergency medical
13 technicians and paramedics, social workers and crises intervention specialists, 9-1-1 call takers,
14 dispatchers, and public safety communications technicians; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the reasons why individuals are less likely to seek or stay in a career in public
17 safety may include increased risk of injury or death, risk of civil liability or criminal conviction,
18 lack of political and public support, insufficient income for the level of personal risk, risk of
19 potential for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental and physical issues resulting
20 from in the line of duty; and
21

22 WHEREAS, lack of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the public safety workforce can also
23 make it difficult to recruit women and minorities; and
24

25 WHEREAS, recruiting, training, and retaining the next generation of public safety personnel
26 will require considerable local government resources; and
27

28 WHEREAS, many municipalities across America, especially small to medium-size cities, towns
29 and villages, lack sufficient resources to recruit, train, and retain qualified public safety
30 personnel to keep their communities safe.
31

32 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges
33 Congress and the Administration to:

- 34 • Provide technical and financial support to local governments to recruit, train and retain a
35 more racially and gender diverse public safety workforce.
36 ~~• Provide additional funding for local government to establish co-responder programs.~~
37 • Provide additional funding for local governments to hire recruiters to help recruit a
38 diverse municipal public safety workforce.
39 ~~• Conduct research on the feasibility of employing unarmed responders for mental health~~
40 ~~and substance use calls for help.~~
41 ~~• Provide technical assistance to local governments to establish violence interrupter~~
42 ~~programs.~~
43 • Establish a national ad campaign to help recruit more women and minorities in the public
44 safety workforce.
45 • Provide technical assistance to local governments to improve mental health and wellness
46 programs for their public safety employees.

- Increase funding for the COPS hiring grants and allow the funding to be used for hiring co-responders and crisis intervention teams.

1 **NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1**

2
3 **URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING AND**
4 **ASSISTANCE TO CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE**
5 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS**
6

7 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt**
8

9 **WHEREAS, the rise in violent crime, including gun violence, in communities across the country**
10 **is putting a considerable strain on local government resources; and**
11

12 **WHEREAS, local governments have leveraged federal funding through the American Rescue**
13 **Plan Act, and other federal grant programs, but the needs of local governments when addressing**
14 **violent crime are not met by these funds; and**
15

16 **WHEREAS, the residents in cities, towns, and villages believe local elected officials have the**
17 **primary responsibility to deal with the violence in their communities; and**
18

19 **WHEREAS, local leaders are looking at recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining a municipal**
20 **public safety workforce that is bigger than just law enforcement officers, firefighters, and**
21 **emergency medical services to address the rise in violent crime; and**
22

23 **WHEREAS, local leaders recognize the importance of coordinated mental health services in**
24 **violence prevention, taking on greater responsibility in providing behavioral health services to all**
25 **their residents experiencing economic, social, mental health, and substance abuse crises, but are**
26 **restricted by the lack of sufficient funds made available to cities, towns, and villages for this**
27 **purpose; and**
28

29 **WHEREAS, municipal governments have little or no control over the adjudication of those**
30 **committing acts of violence and rely on federal, state, and county criminal courts to ensure that**
31 **they are adequately charged and processed. However, these courts are experiencing**
32 **unprecedented backlogs that are causing those that are committing acts of violence to be**
33 **processed through the system slowly and at times released to the community; and**
34

35 **WHEREAS, local government officials cannot rely solely on policing data to get a**
36 **comprehensive picture of what factors are causing the rise in violence in their communities; and**
37

38 **WHEREAS, the partisan and divisive national political debate over the causes of violence in**
39 **cities is making it harder for local officials to effectively communicate to their residents on how**
40 **they are addressing the violence; and**
41

42 **WHEREAS, relaxed state and federal gun laws are increasing the illegal trafficking of guns to**
43 **criminals in cities.**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress to ensure local governments can directly apply for and receive federal funding to help recruit, hire, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse violence prevention workforce that includes:

- accredited and properly vetted law enforcement officers
- crisis intervention teams
- mental health and substance abuse co-responders
- violence interrupters
- alternative or unarmed responders that can respond to non-violent and non-criminal incidents to reduce the overburden on sworn law enforcement officers
- credible messengers and mentors
- mental health call takers in 9-1-1 centers to appropriately triage mental health calls

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC urges the federal government to provide technical assistance to local governments to establish:

- co-responder programs
- community violence interventions including violence interruption programs
- crises intervention teams
- alternative or unarmed responder programs
- credible messenger/mentor programs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC urges Congress to provide additional funding to address the backlog of criminal cases in the federal, state, and county courts to ensure those committing acts of violence are not released back to the communities before they are fully adjudicated for their crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC urges Congress to provide technical assistance to local governments to develop new analytical models that don't rely solely on law enforcement data to identify and address the root causes of violence in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Congress must provide increased funding in the annual federal budget to help federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies stop the illegal trafficking of guns and weapons into cities, hold straw purchasers criminally liable, and permanently shut down "bad apple" gun dealers.

1 **NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2**

2
3 **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NEED DIRECT AND SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL FUNDING**
4 **TO HELP RESIDENTS WHO CALL THE 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IN**
5 **TIMES OF CRISIS**
6

7 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt**
8

9 **WHEREAS, in 2020, Congress designated the new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, formerly**
10 **known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, for reaching trained crisis counselors who**
11 **can help with suicide, mental health, and substance use-related crises, and the number went live**
12 **nationally on July 16, 2022; and**
13

14 **WHEREAS, the new 3-digit 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is intended to be a network of state**
15 **and local call centers supported by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department (HHS)**
16 **through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and**
17

18 **WHEREAS, the Biden-Harris Administration increased federal investments in the 988 Suicide**
19 **& Crisis Lifeline from \$24 million to \$432 million -- to scale up crisis centers and backup center**
20 **capacity and to provide special services, including a sub-network for Spanish language speakers;**
21 **and**
22

23 **WHEREAS, the \$432 million included \$105 million in grant funding to states and territories,**
24 **provided by the American Rescue Plan, to improve response rates, increase capacity to meet**
25 **future demand, and ensure calls initiated in their states or territories are first routed to local,**
26 **regional, or state crisis call centers; and**
27

28 **WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline was established to improve access to crisis**
29 **services to meet our country's growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs.**
30

31 **WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is intended to provide easier access to the**
32 **national Lifeline network and related crisis resources, which are distinct from the public safety**
33 **purposes of 911 (where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire, and police**
34 **as needed); and**
35

36 **WHEREAS, crisis care services do not exist in all areas of the country, especially in racially and**
37 **economically disadvantaged communities and rural cities, towns, and villages; and**
38

39 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED NLC is concerned that currently, there isn't**
40 **sufficient federal and state funding to quickly build out crisis care services in all areas of the**
41 **country to help people that call 988, and**
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** NLC urges Congress to ensure that, in addition to the funding
44 provided to the states, there will be sustained, direct federal support to local governments to
45 quickly expand crisis care systems to help racially and economically disadvantaged communities
46 and rural cities, towns, and villages;

47
48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Congress must also provide direct funding to local
49 governments to create crisis intervention teams, co-responders, and alternative unarmed
50 behavioral health response programs to help people that call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in
51 their communities.
52

1 **NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 3**

2
3 **IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO STOP THE**
4 **ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL**

5
6 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Pending**
7

8 **WHEREAS drug traffickers are mass-producing fake or counterfeit pills and falsely marketing**
9 **them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the people of the United States; and**
10

11 **WHEREAS many fake or counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription name-brand**
12 **opioids or stimulants; and**
13

14 **WHEREAS drug traffickers are using fake or counterfeit pills to exploit the opioid crisis and**
15 **prescription drug misuse; and**
16

17 **WHEREAS the Drug Enforcement Agency (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”) has**
18 **observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing not less than 2 mg of**
19 **fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose; and**
20

21 **WHEREAS 4 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal**
22 **dose; and**
23

24 **WHEREAS counterfeit pills may also contain fentanyl-related substances and**
25 **methamphetamine; and**
26

27 **WHEREAS the number of counterfeit pills with fentanyl seized by law enforcement agencies**
28 **has increased by nearly 502 percent since 2019; and**
29

30 **WHEREAS more than 9,500,000 counterfeit pills were seized within the last year, which**
31 **exceeds the total number of seizures for the previous 2 years combined; and**
32

33 **WHEREAS fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 States and the District of**
34 **Columbia; and**
35

36 **WHEREAS illicit fentanyl has also been detected in street drugs such as heroin and cocaine;**
37 **and**
38

39 **WHEREAS for the 12-month period ending in October 2021, more than 105,000 individuals in**
40 **the United States died of drug-induced deaths, and 69,000 of those deaths involved illicit**
41 **fentanyl; and**
42

43 WHEREAS over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among individuals aged 15 to 35 has
44 increased 6-fold, largely driven by the increase in illicit fentanyl drugs; and

45
46 WHEREAS for the 12-month period ending in April 2021, the leading cause of death for
47 individuals in the United States aged 18 to 45 was illicit fentanyl; and

48
49 WHEREAS fake counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-
50 commerce platforms, making them accessible to teens and youth; and

51
52 WHEREAS illicit fentanyl is involved in more deaths of youths than all other drug types
53 combined; and

54
55 WHEREAS, in 2020, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by
56 94 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other 5-
57 year age group; and

58
59 WHEREAS, in 2020, fentanyl involvement in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for
60 individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by 169 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the
61 national rate and faster than any other 5-year age group; and

62
63 WHEREAS, in 2020, there were 56,516 reported overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids.

64
65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NLC urges Congress to pass legislation to classify
66 fentanyl analogs under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) due to the high
67 potential for abuse; and

68
69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to provide federal, state and local
70 law enforcement additional resources and technical assistance needed to address the substance
71 addiction crisis in America's cities, towns and villages.