



2021-02

**THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR
AN OPEN AND COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT BIDEN'S
ADMINISTRATION ON BORDER SECURITY**

Border security is of paramount importance to the safety and security of all citizens and those visiting the United States of America. It is well known that the National Sheriffs' Association has worked extensively and in good faith with previous Presidential administrations in a collaborative working relationship to address threats that can and do jeopardize the safety and security of our Nation and the citizens whom we have pledged to protect.

In an effort to continue to respond, initiate, and take part in meaningful meetings and dialogue with President Biden and his administration national border security issues, the National Sheriff's Association puts forth the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the National Sheriff's Association will continue to strive to cultivate and establish a strong working relationship with President Biden and his Administration in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, secure borders serve to help address the public health and safety needs of individuals and address evolving and emerging drug threats of International origin; and

WHEREAS, the International Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO's) continue smuggling operations on our borders in an effort to bring dangerous illicit drugs such as Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine and Fentanyl across our borders; and

WHEREAS, these DTO's do not distribute these dangerous drugs only within the confines of the State or States where the smuggling takes place. Rather, these dangerous drugs are then moved and distributed throughout every town, city, county, borough and State throughout our Nation, contributing to the social economic issues facing our jurisdictions, including but not limited to the health and welfare system, medical system, teenage drug dependency, loss of work hours, law enforcement intervention and the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, the amount of illegal drug trafficking across our borders and throughout our country has necessitated the need of identifying critical drug-trafficking regions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law

enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States. This grant program is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). There are currently 33 HIDTAs, and HIDTA-designated counties are located in 50 states, as well as in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. At the local level, the HIDTAs are directed and guided by Executive Boards composed of an equal number of regional Federal and non-Federal (state, local, and tribal) law enforcement leaders; and

WHEREAS, these efforts through the HIDTA programs not only assist in addressing the threat of illegal drug smuggling into our country through our borders, the HIDTA programs also include an innovative Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) which bring together drug intelligence officers and public health analysts at the local and regional level to share information and develop intervention and support services that reduce overdoses; and

WHEREAS, the HIDTA program and the ORS both are in line with President Biden's efforts to enhance and expand access to evidence-based prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services and strengthening law enforcement efforts to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations and create critical collaboration between public health and public safety leaders at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association supports the need to continue to address the threat of unprecedented smuggling of illicit drugs across our borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Sheriffs' Association supports the efforts to continue to cultivate a collaborative and working relationship with President Biden's administration to collectively and in unity, provide for the increased improvement of border security for the benefit of our Nation and all who live here.