July 13, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee,

President Joe Biden has nominated Sheriff Ed Gonzalez of Harris County, TX to serve as the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A co-chair of the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force (LEITF), Sheriff Gonzalez is a proven leader on issues at the intersection of law enforcement and immigration. As his peers and fellow LEITF members, we believe he will prioritize both public safety and the dignity of immigrants as the Director of ICE.

Sheriff Gonzalez was elected Sheriff of Harris County – Texas’ largest county and the United States’ third largest county by population – in November 2016. Prior to this, Sheriff Gonzalez served for 18 years in the Houston Police Department and six years on Houston’s City Council, chairing the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. We believe these diverse experiences will inform Sheriff Gonzalez’s leadership at ICE, and ensure that public safety, community trust, collaboration with local and state law enforcement, and humane treatment of immigrants are prioritized by ICE under the Biden administration.

As a law enforcement leader, Sheriff Gonzalez has supported smarter, targeted enforcement priorities that respect local law enforcement and uphold community trust. For example, he worked with other Texas sheriffs to raise concerns about state legislation (SB.4) that would require local law enforcement to divert scarce resources to carry out certain immigration enforcement activities that traditionally have been the responsibility of the federal government.

In addition to championing smarter enforcement priorities, Sheriff Gonzalez has been an outspoken advocate for compassionate treatment of immigrants as an LEITF member. He joined a group of Texas law enforcement leaders in denouncing President Trump’s family separation policy. He is also an advocate for Dreamers and has urged Congress to find bipartisan solutions to protect DACA recipients and provide pathways to citizenship. In a May 2018 press statement, he stated:

    Congress owes all Americans a bipartisan, permanent solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). A solution for Dreamers is also a solution for American workers, businesses, law enforcement, churches, our military, and entire communities. Dreamers are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends. It is past time for our Congress to rise above the political rhetoric and demonstrate true leadership on this urgent issue.

We believe Sheriff Gonzalez would lead ICE with acute knowledge of local law enforcement realities and compassion for vulnerable immigrants. Confirming Sheriff Gonzalez will ensure
that ICE prioritizes enforcement against those who pose public safety or national security threats, and that local law enforcement agencies can focus their limited resources on community safety.

We believe Sheriff Gonzalez's pragmatic and sensible leadership would be an asset to ICE. We support Sheriff Gonzalez’s nomination and urge that he be confirmed promptly.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Margaret Mims, LEITF Co-Chair
Fresno County, CA

Chief Orlando Rolón, LEITF Co-Chair
Orlando, FL

Chief Art Acevedo, LEITF Co-Chair
Miami, FL

Executive Director Dwayne Crawford
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Former National President Clarence Cox
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Chief Ernest Finley
Montgomery, AL

Lieutenant Andy Norris, Retired
Tuscaloosa, AL

Chief Ramon Batista, Retired
Mesa, AZ

Chief Roy Bermudez
Nogales, AZ

Chief Jack Harris, Retired
Phoenix, AZ

Chief Mike Soelberg
Gilbert, AZ

Chief Steve Stahl, Retired
Maricopa, AZ

Chief Roberto Villasenor, Retired
Tucson AZ

Chief Bill Scott
San Francisco, CA

Chief David Valentin
Santa Ana, CA

Chief Robert Contee
Washington, DC

Interim Chief Sylvia Moir
Napa, CA

Sheriff John Mina
Orange County, FL

Chief Roy W. Minter Jr.
Savannah, GA

Chief Chris Cole
Storm Lake, IA

Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald
Story County, IA

Chief Wayne Jerman
Cedar Rapids, IA
Director of Public Safety Mark Prosser, Retired
Storm Lake, IA

Sheriff Kevin Schneider
Polk County, IA

Chief Mike Tupper
Marshalltown, IA

Chief Craig Kingsbury
Twin Falls, ID

Sheriff John Idleburg
Lake County, IL

Chief Michael Diekhoff
Bloomington, IN

Chief Scott Ruszkowski
South Bend, IN

Chief Ron Teachman, Retired
South Bend, IN

Chief Gordon Ramsay
Wichita, KS

Chief Erika Shields
Louisville, KY

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian
Middlesex County, MA

Chief Brian Kyes
Chelsea, MA

Chief Marcus Jones
Montgomery County, MD

Chief J. Thomas Manger, Retired
Montgomery County, MD

Sheriff Jerry Clayton
Washtenaw County, MI

Chief Ron Haddad
Dearborn, MI

Chief Christopher C. Blue
Chapel Hill, NC

Sheriff Garry McFadden
Mecklenburg County, NC

Sheriff Eli Rivera
Cheshire County, NH

Chief Richard Biehl
Dayton, OH

Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare
Providence, RI

Chief William Holbrook
Columbia, SC

Sheriff Leon Lott
Richland County, SC

Chief Fred Fletcher, Retired
Chattanooga, TN

Sheriff Marian Brown
Dallas County, TX

Chief Frank Dixon
Denton, TX

Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra
Hidalgo County, TX

Chief Andy Harvey
Pharr, TX
Sheriff Sally Hernandez
Travis County, TX

Chief Mike Markle
Corpus Christi, TX

Chief Neil Noakes
Fort Worth, TX

Chief Claudio Treviño, Jr.
Laredo, TX

Sheriff Lupe Valdez, Retired
Dallas County, TX

Chief Mike Brown
Salt Lake City, UT

Retired Chief/FBI National Executive
Institute Associates President Chris Burbank
Salt Lake City, UT

Captain Sean Casey
Alexandria, VA

Chief Peter Newsham
Prince William County, VA

Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht
King County, WA

Sheriff David J. Mahoney, Retired
Dane County, WI

*Signatures updated as of July 13, 12 pm ET*