



July 21, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate,

President Joe Biden has [nominated](#) Chief Chris Magnus (Tucson, AZ) to lead Customs and Border Protection (CBP). A longtime member of the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force (LEITF), Chief Magnus is committed to supporting policies that promote law enforcement's ability to protect all members of their communities, including immigrants. As his peers and fellow LEITF members, we can speak to his dedication and ability to ensure public safety while treating all immigrants with dignity and care.

[Chief Magnus](#) will bring valuable leadership and experience to CBP. He has been a police chief in three cities over the last 20 years. In Fargo, North Dakota, he instituted a refugee liaison program to foster better relationships between police and newly arrived immigrants. During his time in [Richmond](#), a diverse city in California, he was instrumental in drastically reducing homicide and crimes rates while emphasizing community policing. As the current chief in Tucson, Arizona, he is well aware of the challenges communities near the border face. Fostering community trust has been a key goal for Chief Magnus in every department he has led, and he knows that trust is especially important when interacting with immigrant communities. In a 2017 op-ed for the [New York Times](#), he wrote:

If people are afraid of the police, if they fear they may become separated from their families or harshly interrogated based on their immigration status, they won't report crimes or come forward as witnesses.

If confirmed, Chief Magnus would continue advocating for fair and humane immigration policies without compromising on security. During his time as a LEITF member, he has called for alternatives to [family detention](#), adequate care of [child migrants](#), and a bipartisan solution for [Dreamers](#). He has also publicly [supported](#) immigrant communities in the wake of anti-immigrant attacks.

Chief Magnus understands how to work effectively with law enforcement of all levels and the communities they serve. He knows that effective collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as with the community, is essential when dealing with any kind of challenge. In 2018, he [testified](#) to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration during a hearing on transnational cartels and border security. During his testimony, he emphasized the importance of cooperation and community trust to ensure public safety:

Improving border security and achieving community safety requires effective cooperation and trust – between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies – but just as critically between immigrant communities and those public safety officers who serve them.

Confirming Chief Magnus as Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection is a wise choice for the country's security and treatment of immigrants. Given the continuing humanitarian crisis at the border, there is an urgent need for his leadership and expertise.

We support Chief Magnus's nomination and call for a quick confirmation in order to allow his important work to commence.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

Sincerely,

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National Organization of Black Law  
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Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

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