



For Immediate Release

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Sheriffs Disturbed about POTUS's Additional Commutations

Again, President Obama has misled the American public. Tuesday marked the second time within a month, and the sixth time this year, the Administration has commuted the sentences of violent offenders – 119 of whom have firearm related offenses, some in the furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

As the MCSA stated in August, federal firearm charges are serious, violent and under no circumstance should be considered low level. Further, the offenses listed do not paint a complete picture of the seriousness, history or complexity of each case.

The MCSA remains concerned that additional federal firearm offenders will receive commutations in a race to address the backlog. Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates stated, “At our current pace, we are confident that we will be able to review and make recommendations to the President on every single drug petition we have.” As violent crime in major cities continues to rise and more people have died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any year on record, public safety is paramount.

As constitutionally elected law enforcement leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure the public fully understands the reckless decisions being made by the President. It is disingenuous to have our communities believe federal firearm offenders are non-violent and is a true disservice to local community safety. We again urge the Administration to change course and prioritize community safety over legacy and campaign promises.

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The [Major County Sheriffs' Association](http://www.mcsheriffs.com) (MCSA) is an association of elected sheriffs representing the nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more, representing over 100 million Americans