



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02
March 26, 2015

STATEMENT: The Sheriffs' primary duties are to serve, protect, and enforce the Constitution and Laws of their State and Nation. Sheriffs' follow the Rule of Law in their service and urge that the Rule of Law be followed in the face of this border crisis. The existing laws should be fully enforced and there should be no efforts to circumvent these laws. Also, to ensure the safety and security of our Nation the southern, northern and maritime borders should be effectively and efficiently secured. The sheriffs serving those counties along the borders are in the epicenter of this crisis, though every sheriff recognizes the negative impacts of what crosses the borders illegally: smuggling of contraband, illegal drugs, exploitation of human beings and the infiltration of subversives bent on doing harm to our counties, the States and this Country.

WHEREAS: Federal law mandates border security. The quality of life normally enjoyed by our citizens is being jeopardized by an unsecure border that enables transnational criminals and their accomplices to prey on our citizens; and

WHEREAS: Border Security must be a standalone priority for the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS: Violence against innocent citizens, public officials, law enforcement, and rival drug and human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate and cross international boundaries; and

WHEREAS: The reduction of the Federal Government's enforcement of border security and prosecution of the criminal element places our citizens in harm's way. This leaves the burden on local governments to bear the costs associated with apprehension, prosecution, and incarceration of this criminal element; and

- WHEREAS:** Elected Sheriffs have a statutory duty to protect and secure the Freedoms and Liberties of our citizens and must do so with or without the help of our federal law enforcement partners and policy makers; and
- WHEREAS:** Working with limited budgets and staffing, Sheriffs of the Western United States struggle to find ways to enhance the quality of life and safety for those they serve and to deter those who cross our borders to promote their criminal activities; and
- WHEREAS:** Local governments are not funded to provide solutions and programs but are cognizant of the requirement for bringing relief to our citizens who are impacted by the lack of border security; and
- WHEREAS:** Several federal prosecution policy changes have had a significant impact on how state and local authorities manage criminal justice prosecutions and have further burdened state and local resources sidetracking those resources from addressing criminal activity and its effects on our community; and
- WHEREAS:** Without aggressive prosecution of all of those committing criminal acts occurring as a result of breaching our border, the American people will continue to see a border that is an open opportunity for the criminal element to exploit by entering the United States to prey on this country and its citizens;
- THEREFORE:** Let it be resolved that the Western States Sheriffs' Association encourages Congress to direct the appropriate Federal agencies to do the following:
- Fully secure all of our borders.
 - Fully reimburse Sheriffs for the costs associated with housing of illegal aliens being charged with state crimes.
 - Return to the original guidelines as set forth in Operation Streamline for the prosecution of persons crossing the United States Border illegally.
 - Return to previous policies of assisting local governments and law enforcement agencies
 - Reducc the burdensome reporting requirements and restrictions on Federal grants.

SIGNATURES



Sheriff Dave Brown, President
Western States Sheriffs' Association



Jim Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)
Executive Director WSSA