

REMARKS
AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

OF

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PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

AT THE

PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

ON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
BIRMINGHAM, AL

Thank you, Jon [Adler]. It's a privilege to be here in Birmingham. I want to thank U.S. Attorney Town, Sheriff Hale and Chief Smith for welcoming us to their city – and for all they do to keep the people of Birmingham and Jefferson County safe. My thanks, as well, to Alabama's Attorney General, Steve Marshall. And of course, to my colleague, Jon Adler.

I want to acknowledge all of our partners, starting with our federal allies – the FBI; the DEA; the ATF; and the U.S. Marshals Service. Not to mention our fellow grant-making offices – the COPS Office and the Office on Violence Against Women. And of course, representatives from U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country.

Thanks as well to the mayors, sheriffs, police chiefs, district attorneys and everyone who does the hard work of protecting our communities. The National Public Safety Partnership, and the successes we're seeing because of it, would not be possible without your dedication and leadership. Thank you all.

I've been on the job leading the Office of Justice Programs for less than a month, but I've spent a good portion of my career with the Department of Justice. As a Department veteran and former federal prosecutor, I understand the value of a program like the Public Safety Partnership that brings together local and federal agencies.

In my work as a U.S. Attorney, I saw how important it is that local communities drive the response to crime, with federal resources and prosecutions to reinforce their efforts. When local and federal agencies work together, they're better able to stamp out violence, take hardened criminals off the streets and restore a measure of justice and safety to victims. This collaborative model is a smart approach. Indeed, from the standpoint of ensuring public safety, it is the most effective approach.

I'd like to take this opportunity to pledge OJP's continued full support to this important work. I know from experience that cooperation is key to any successful crime-fighting venture, especially in areas where resources are stretched thin. You can rest assured that the Office of Justice Programs will work hard to give you the tools and support you need on the ground to restore peace and security to your communities.

We have an excellent team ready to support you. Kristen Mahoney and Kristie Brackens from our Bureau of Justice Assistance have coordinated this effort from the beginning and have helped shape its success. Let me also give a nod to Teddy Miller. Teddy's been on loan to us from the FBI for over a year now, serving as co-director of PSP. We appreciate all he's done to help us out.

I am excited to be at the Department of Justice, working with an Attorney General who cares deeply about the safety of America's communities, and who spares no effort to support our brave law enforcement officers. Justice Department leaders up and down the chain of command are committed to backing our public safety partners with all the means at our disposal.

I'm privileged to be part of this effort, and I'm proud to join them – and all of you – as we fight to keep our communities safe.

It's now my great privilege to introduce the man who is leading the Administration's fight against crime and violence.

Our Attorney General has built a career on his steadfast commitment to justice, safety and the Rule of Law – as a federal prosecutor, as Alabama's Attorney General, as a United States Senator for Alabama and now as the nation's chief law enforcement officer.

His attack on violent crime is worthy of an Auburn – or, where I'm from, a Cyclone – linebacker. He is a true champion of our nation's law enforcement community, fighting alongside them every step of the way. He is a proud Alabaman, and I am honored to join him today in the Yellowhammer state.

Please join me in welcoming the Attorney General of the United States, the Honorable Jeff Sessions.

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