

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives



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PRESS RELEASE

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NOBLE Responds to President Trump's Pardon of Sheriff Joseph Arpaio

ALEXANDRIA, VA– The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) views President Donald Trump's recent pardon of Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio as a direct abhorrence of the legal procedure in executive clemency practice. Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, pledged order and a tough on crime agenda as head of Department of Justice; however, Arpaio's executive clemency is an affront to the Department of Justice's pardon policy. In accordance with the Department's governing petitions for executive clemency, an applicant must satisfy a minimum waiting period of five years before he becomes eligible to apply for a presidential pardon of his federal conviction. The waiting period begins to run on the date of the petitioner's release from confinement. Alternatively, if the conviction resulted in a sentence that did not include any form of confinement, the waiting period begins on the date of sentencing. Sheriff Arpaio doesn't meet this standard. Additionally, he meets none of the federal standards for clemency either.

Sessions has been an open opponent of clemency practice in the past. During President Barack Obama's tenure, Sessions objected heavily to his clemency initiative of 2014 stating, "To unilaterally determine that a sentence was unjustified simply because the president disagrees with the underlying criminal justice policy is a thumb in the eye of the law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, court and prison personnel who put time and resources into these cases." Fast forward to this past Friday, Sheriff Arpaio faced six months in prison for federal contempt of court. Based on his previous statements Attorney General Sessions should deem Arpaio's pardon unjustified and the precedent it sets as obstructive to the court, judges, attorneys and criminal justice system.

Moreover, this pardon sends the message that our nation and in particular law enforcement condones racial profiling and the creation of brutal jail conditions all in the name of law and order. History has shown us that our society cannot condone the enforcement of unjust practices whether in today's world or during the civil rights movement.

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About the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

Since 1976, The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. NOBLE represents over 3,000 members internationally, who are primarily African-American chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies at federal, state, county and municipal levels, other law enforcement administrators, and criminal justice practitioners. For more information, visit www.noblenational.org.

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