

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives



4609-F Pinecrest Office Park Drive
Alexandria, VA 22312-1442
(703) 658-1529 – phone
(703) 658-9479 – fax
www.noblenational.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2017

NOBLE Responds to President Trump's Lifting of Ban Limiting Local Law Enforcement Acquisition of Military Equipment

ALEXANDRIA, VA– President Trump’s announcement to lift the Obama-era ban limiting the acquisition of military equipment by local police forces is in direct opposition to law enforcement leaders, elected officials, civil rights advocates, and communities that have voiced concerns about the “militarization” of law enforcement.

The historical nature of militarized local police forces has created friction between local law enforcement and the communities they serve for decades. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) supported President Obama’s Executive Order 13688, banning categories of equipment that law enforcement agencies will not be able to acquire via transfer from Federal agencies or purchase using Federally-provided funds such as Armored Vehicles, Bayonets, Grenade Launchers, Large Caliber Weapons and Ammunition. This ban was in part a response to rising community concerns, most notably the highly publicized use of military-style weaponry by the Ferguson, Missouri police in August 2014.

“One of NOBLE’s major concerns regarding President Trump’s lifting of ban limiting local law enforcement acquisition of military equipment is removing the requirements for protocols and training of law enforcement agencies that acquire this equipment,” stated Clarence Cox, NOBLE National President.

In 2015, NOBLE joined other organizations in offering recommendations and implementation plans to President Obama’s administration in support of Executive Order 13688. We feel that it was an integral step-forward in decreasing community fear and strengthening trust.

###

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.

###

NOBLE Media Contacts:
Gianno Caldwell 202.423.7520
Dwayne Crawford 703.658.1529