

REMARKS

OF

THE HONORABLE KAROL V. MASON  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

AT THE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ON

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Thank you, Deputy Chief Davis. I'm very pleased to be here, and delighted to spend time with my colleagues, Ron and Vanita, talking about the many ways the Department of Justice is working to support our nation's law enforcement executives and officers.

As I said when I spoke to the NOBLE Executive Board in October, there is no higher priority at the Office of Justice Programs than our connection with state and local law enforcement. Our top goal is to make sure you have the tools you need to do your jobs effectively and safely, and in a way that keeps the trust and respect of the citizens you serve.

We do this in a variety of ways – through training and technical assistance, by supporting and disseminating research, by promoting promising practices, and through funding. We'll have a chance, I hope, to talk about each of those resources during our discussion.

One of my top priorities is helping law enforcement and criminal and juvenile justice agencies strengthen relationships with the citizens they serve. This is a Department-wide push, and it's an issue that Ron, Vanita, and I are working together to address, under the leadership of our Attorney General.

There's actually a great deal of good work being done in communities across the country to bridge divides of trust, and we're trying to highlight that work and get it out to the field. Our philosophy is that trust is key not only to the fairness of the system, but to the safety and health of communities – and of law enforcement officers themselves. So we're working in a variety of ways to support efforts that build and maintain trust.

I look forward to a chance to talk about some of those efforts, and about other ways we're supporting the great work of our law enforcement partners.

Thank you.

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