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Western States Sheriffs' Association

Position Paper

No Confidence in DHS Secretary Mayorkas

The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents Sheriffs from 17 States. Our membership continues to work together to assist our nation's southern border Sheriffs in the ongoing crisis at the border. Over the past 10 months we have witnessed the continued breach of the border by illegal Immigrants who seek to find refuge in the United States. Many are hoping to reach our homeland in search of a life of freedom. Many will come here with a debt owed to the drug cartels of Mexico and South America. For some, reaching the United States marks the beginning of years of drug distribution, slavery, and prostitution in order to pay back the drug cartels for the privilege of being brought to the U.S.

This is not a new phenomenon. This has been occurring for decades. This is the reason our Border Patrol, southern border Sheriffs and Immigration and Customs enforcement exists. A concerted effort to curb the northward flow of illegal Immigrants has long been the focus of these enforcement officers. For the past several years, much effort and financial resources was focused on the southern border and a great deal of progress was made in limiting the number of illegal crossings.

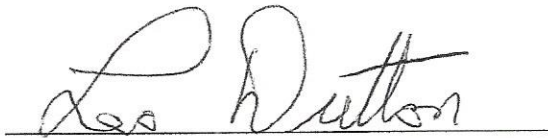
Today we are witnessing a complete and total breakdown of efforts of the past several years. Over a million illegal crossings already this year. Hundreds of thousands of illegal Immigrants who we know for sure entered this country illegally and were never intercepted by law enforcement. What is significantly concerning is the fact that these are individuals from over 160+ different countries and some of those are from special interest countries with terrorist ties. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas was appointed and sworn into his position to follow the rule of law in securing our nation. Secretary Mayorkas is the head of the Department of Homeland Security and tasked with carrying out those public safety responsibilities delegated to the United States. Since his appointment we have seen his policies enacted that are personal and political ideologies that continue to dismantle the security of our country and the enforcement efforts of the hard-working federal officers assigned to an extremely difficult task.

America's Sheriffs have watched in disbelief as the southern border has turned into an invisible line in the sand. Border patrol agents have been relegated to daycare supervisors at housing units and when they do attempt to act, they are scrutinized, placed on administrative leave, and investigated for political gain. The tragedy of an invisible border is being realized across the United States. Massive amounts of drugs are moving across the patchwork of interstate highways and small rural roads to a town near you. American citizens continue to die from overdoses in this country at an alarming level each and every day. Statics now show that more people have died in the U.S. from fentanyl overdoses than from COVID in the past 20 months. Fentanyl is coming across our southern border and into the interior of the U.S. at alarming and unacceptable levels. Violent crime is increasing in major cities and examples of the atrocities carried out by illegal immigrants are beginning to surface in the media when the media exhibits the courage to report it.

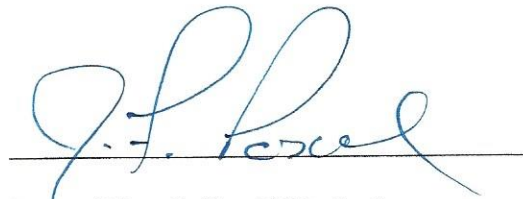
After witnessing this disaster over the past several months and listening to the continued rhetoric and Intellectual dishonesty from Secretary Mayorkas, The Western States Sheriffs' Association, and its membership must emphatically state our position of having **NO** confidence in the ability of the Secretary Mayorkas, and his leadership within the Department of Homeland Security, to affect any positive outcome on this matter.

We call on President Biden to take the appropriate steps to remove Secretary Mayorkas from his leadership position and appoint a new leader at the Department of Homeland Security who recognizes, respects and will enforce the rule of law for the safety and security of our nation along with the southern and northern borders. We demand a new leader who will work, together with our nation's Sheriffs and the U.S. Border Patrol, to gain control of our nation's southern border.

A decision to make this change must come immediately. If there is a legitimate "matter of National Security" for this nation, at this time, this is certainly one. America's western Sheriffs, and specifically our southwest border Sheriffs, stand ready to work with our federal enforcement partners and the administration to restore security and safety on our nation's southern border.



Sheriff Leo Dutton
President
Western States Sheriffs Association



James F Pond, Sheriff Retired
Executive Director
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