



ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

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MARK DANNELS, COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT
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THE ARIZONA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

October 12, 2021

The Honorable Mark Kelly
Arizona Senator
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Arizona Sheriffs Concerns with Magnus Nomination as CBP Director

Dear Senator Kelly:

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a critical law enforcement agency performing several crucial roles for the safety of our country and it requires superior leadership. As a border state, Arizona's Sheriffs understand firsthand the crisis that currently exists on the border. The dire circumstances are at a pinnacle both for the communities we are sworn to protect and for our officers. Unfortunately, at this time we cannot support the nomination of Chief Christopher Magnus to lead U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

We certainly don't discount Chief Magnus' years of service; however we don't see any federal experience on his résumé and that is a crucial factor when selecting someone to lead the country's largest federal law enforcement agency. In addition, during his time with the Tucson Police Department, while he formally opposed efforts to make Tucson a "sanctuary city", at the same time he often bypassed working with federal immigration authorities. This caused a rift with the Border Patrol union – many of the same men and women who will potentially be under his command should he be confirmed.

More recently, Chief Magnus rejected the Operation Stonegarden federal grant funds. These funds are geared towards border security and can be used for equipment and overtime expenses, among other things. For years this federal money had assisted local government in removing countless guns and drugs off of the streets and providing the overtime necessary for officers to patrol high-crime areas.

Arizona's Sheriffs are not alone in having concerns with Chief Magnus' nomination. Our partners at the National Sheriffs Association (NSA) have also expressed opposition to his nomination following an interview between Chief Magnus and NSA leadership.

For the reasons noted above, the Arizona Sheriffs' Association does not support the nomination of Chief Christopher Magnus as Director of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. We respectfully ask that you vote against this nominee and if there are questions about our position, we welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue further.

Respectfully,

Mark Dannels
President
Cochise County Sheriff