



## NEWS FROM THE MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Major Cities Chiefs Denounce Texas Legislation**

**WASHINGTON, June 5, 2017** – On behalf of the largest law enforcement agencies in the Nation, Major Cities Chiefs Association President J. Thomas Manger issued a statement of strong support for the Texas Major Cities Chiefs who have opposed Texas Senate Bill 4, State legislation requiring local police to engage in routine immigration enforcement. The Texas cities of Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Arlington and Fort Worth are members of the national association. Manger noted that objections voiced by the Texas Chiefs of Police reflect the officially adopted policy position of their national association. Manger announced,

“Major Cities Chiefs stands by our long-held policy that civil immigration enforcement is strictly a Federal responsibility and actions to compel local law enforcement agencies to engage in routine immigration activities would undermine public safety in communities we are sworn to protect. While we cooperate fully with DHS and ICE on criminal matters and providing requested notifications, we strongly oppose police participation in civil matters where there is neither a crime nor a judicial warrant.”

“We strongly support the Texas agencies who oppose SB 4 because it will cause witnesses and victims to cease cooperation with their local police out of fear of deportation. If police are perceived as immigration officers, our efforts to prevent crime, drug trafficking and stop gangs like MS-13 will be greatly weakened. We rely on support from everyone in the community.”

Executive Director Darrel Stephens further noted,

“Federal Courts have repeatedly held that local police may not arrest or detain persons solely based on an administrative action by immigration staff, as those civil detainees do not satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Constitution. Since these administrative detainees are not judicial orders and do not represent probable cause, we expect that Texas SB 4 will be successfully challenged in the courts”

“Texas Chiefs of Police have expressed the concerns of our national association. ICE does not work for local police and neither do we work for ICE. It must never be the job of local police to perform routine civil tasks for Federal agencies, and the public can ill-afford this destructive distraction from our duty to protect the community.”

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Major Cities Chiefs is a professional association of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and ten largest in Canada. The Chiefs serve more than 82 million people.