



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

309 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
Phone 202-547-8189 • Fax 202-547-8190

STEVE YOUNG
PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

21 June 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support of your plan to create a Department of Homeland Security. It is a significant undertaking, but we have confidence that your Administration and the Congress will prove equal to the challenge. We are also extremely gratified by your uniquely inclusive approach to making the United States a safer, stronger nation, and, on a personal note, I am honored to have been appointed by you to the Homeland Security Advisory Council

As you have eloquently stated, the more than 650,000 local, State and Federal law enforcement officers are our nation's first line of defense against terrorism. At the same time, our challenge is to ensure that our appropriate focus on our role as "first responders" does not diminish our commitment to the traditional law enforcement mission.

Federal funds targeted to assist first responders must be used for first responders and not for any other purpose. These programs will function best if they focus on the unique challenges faced during a terrorist attack. We enthusiastically endorse the Administration's emphasis on inter-jurisdictional and inter-discipline training and exercises. Mutual aid and interoperability are essential components of effective response to a terrorist attack. In order to ensure this terrorism-specific focus, first responder programs must be administered as a separate and distinct program, and ought not to be viewed as an amalgamation of other emergency response programs. We believe that the additional funding demands necessary for first responder initiatives will require new monies. We must also strive to protect the rights of the Federal law enforcement officers who will comprise the new Department, while ensuring that the pay and benefits of these officers are commensurate with their important mission.

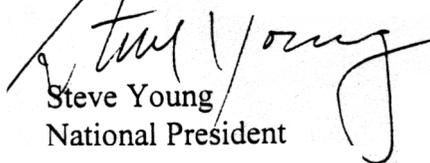
With respect to the law enforcement components of the new Department, we must be sure to carefully review the proposed transfers to ensure that we are, to the best of our ability, including all the agencies and resources we need to fulfill its primary mission. As an example, one very important agency, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, has been left out of the Department's proposed make-up. Because the traditional weapons of choice for terrorists are



explosives, and in view of its long-established positive working relationships with State and local law enforcement, ATF is one of the best equipped Federal agencies to fight terrorism.

Our nation has faced great challenges in its past and there is no doubt among the more than 300,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police that the United States will prevail over its most recent enemy. You have our unqualified support in this effort. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Steve Young
National President