


THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUL 07 2021

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretaries
Heads of Bureaus and Offices
Bureau and Office Directors of Law Enforcement

From: Secretary 

Subject: Department of the Interior Law Enforcement Task Force

On June 8, 2021, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) released the report, entitled “Review of U.S. Park Police Actions at Lafayette Park,” regarding the actions of the U.S. Park Police (USPP) to disperse protestors in and around Lafayette Park in Washington, DC, on June 1, 2020. My response recognized the crucial role that the Department of the Interior’s (Department) law enforcement programs and officers have in protecting our Nation’s most cherished resources and the members of the public who visit them. To support them and fulfill our mission, we must ensure that the Department implements the highest standards for protecting the public and provides necessary policy guidance, resources, and training.

To help accomplish this goal, I am directing the Department’s leadership team to immediately establish a task force, led by the Department’s Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES). Through an equity lens and utilizing evidence-based decision making, the task force will review and identify opportunities for improvement in our Bureaus’ law enforcement programs. This task force will focus on ways to (1) strengthen trust in our law enforcement programs; (2) ensure appropriate policy and oversight is implemented; and (3) ensure supportive resources are available for officer mental health, wellness, and safety.

This is an extremely high priority for me, and for it to be successful it will require participation from Bureaus and Offices across the Department. To ensure the task force has the impact I expect, Directors of the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs are directed to identify a member to the task force that will best support this goal by July 28, 2021. Upon approval by OLES, the task force member from each law enforcement program will be assigned full-time, for up to 18 months, on detail to OLES. The task force shall also involve experts from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights and from the Office of Human Capital, at a minimum, and will request engagement from other entities in the Department as needed.

I am confident that this Department-wide approach will identify meaningful solutions to assist law enforcement and communities in strengthening trust and collaboration, while ushering the Nation into the next phase of community-focused law enforcement.

For further details about this commitment, please contact Mr. Robert MacLean, OLES Director, at robert_maclean@ios.doi.gov. Thank you.

cc: Solicitor
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services
Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security