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# National Opinion Survey of 1,000,000 Americans

## Concerning the Violence in our Streets and the War on America's Police

### QUESTION #1:

Do you think most police officers behave recklessly, perhaps even maliciously, as many in the media and elsewhere claim? Or do you think our police are an overall force for good, and are just trying to do a dangerous job often under very difficult circumstances?

**0%** I think most police behave recklessly and even maliciously when on the job.

**98%** I think our police are an overall force for good and are just trying to do a dangerous job often under very difficult circumstances.

**2%** Don't know/Undecided

### QUESTION #2:

Would you like to see more police patrolling your community? Or fewer police?

**97%** I would like to see MORE POLICE patrolling my community.

**0%** Fewer Police    **2%** About the Same    **1%** No Opinion

**ISSUE SUMMARY:** Our most recent reports show murder and other violent crime rates have skyrocketed recently in America's major cities. According to data collected in 61 metro areas, U.S. cities saw 6,407 homicides in 2016, an 11% increase from the year before. In 2016, there were 760 murders in Chicago – an over 55% increase from the 488 murders Chicago saw in 2015. We are seeing similar surges in murders and violent crime in almost every metro area. This violence is now spilling into suburban and even rural areas.

### QUESTION #3:

Do you think the anti-police rhetoric we're hearing from the news media and others is doing more harm or more good in the high-crime neighborhoods of America's urban areas?

**0%** More Good    **98%** More Harm    **0%** No Impact    **1%** Not Sure

**1%** Other \_\_\_\_\_

**ISSUE SUMMARY:** In a typical year, more than 100 police officers perish in the line of duty, many by gunfire. On average there are more than 50,000 assaults against police officers every year. More than 20,000 American police officers have died in the line of duty since records have been kept.

### QUESTION #5:

Do you think most Americans UNDERESTIMATE or OVERESTIMATE how dangerous it is to be a police officer patrolling America's streets?

**98%** I think most Americans UNDERESTIMATE how dangerous it is to be a police officer on patrol.

**0%** I think most Americans OVERESTIMATE how dangerous it is to be a police officer on patrol.

**0%** Not Sure    **2%** Other \_\_\_\_\_

**ISSUE SUMMARY:** Police officers in many smaller and rural jurisdictions are often required to buy their own armor body vests – sometimes called bulletproof vests (incorrectly, because no vest is really bulletproof). Body armor vests can cost over **\$850** a piece – depending on the quality. And because many police officers are struggling to pay the bills and support their families, they choose not to wear one or purchase the cheaper vests to save money.

This is very dangerous for the officer. But many feel they have no choice, because they want to put their families first.

**QUESTION #6:** What's your reaction to the fact that many police officers must purchase their own body armor vests using their own money? (*Mark as many answers as you think appropriate*)

**98%** Outrage      **2%** Dismay      **0%** Surprise

**0%** I believe police officers should be required to buy their own armor vests

**0%** No Opinion

**QUESTION #7:** What is your reaction to the fact that in many smaller and rural jurisdictions police officers must purchase (using their own money) basic safety equipment including first aid kits and flashlights? (*Mark as many answers as you think appropriate*)

**98%** Outrage      **2%** Dismay      **0%** Surprise

**0%** I believe police officers should be required to buy all their own equipment, even if it is basic safety equipment.

**0%** No Opinion

**PROGRAM SUMMARY:** There are more than 900,000 police officers patrolling America's streets. And many of them must buy their own body armor. Depending on the year, approximately 29 percent of police officers killed by gunfire are not wearing body armor.

So we at **U.S. Deputy Sheriff's Association** raise funds to supply high-quality body armor vests to America's police officers. . . . By providing them with these high quality vests **FREE OF CHARGE** we can protect more officers from bullets and keep them alive.

**QUESTION #8:** How strongly do you support or oppose the special **2018 PROJECT TO PROVIDE POLICE OFFICERS WITH BODY ARMOR VESTS** that retired officer David Hinners described to you in his letter?

**100%** Strongly Support      **0%** Support      **0%** Oppose      **0%** Strongly Oppose

**0%** Not Sure