



*Photo of the week: Representative Troy Nehls shows off a rifle-like anti-drone device during a committee hearing and encourages law enforcement use to defend against rogue drones.*

## Weekly Update and Analysis February 7, 2025

Brooks Bawden Moore's Weekly Update and Analysis highlights congressional, administrative, and regulatory activity related to justice, public safety, and homeland security. Feel free to reach out to us if you would like to discuss any items described in the update. Additionally, please feel free to distribute this product as you see fit.

## What Happened This Week?

This week, the House passed the [\*\*Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl \(HALT Fentanyl\) Act\*\*](#), a bill that would permanently classify fentanyl analogues as Schedule I substances, solidifying the temporary scheduling order that has been in place since 2018. The bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, securing a 312-108 vote. This year, the bill gained more Democratic support, with 98 members voting in favor, up from 74 Democrats backing a similar version in the last Congress. With Republicans controlling the Senate and enough Democratic co-sponsors to overcome a filibuster, the HALT Fentanyl Act has a strong chance of becoming law. Currently, fentanyl analogues are classified as Schedule I substances under a temporary designation that expires on March 31,

putting pressure on lawmakers to act quickly. You can access the full bill text, a summary, and a joint law enforcement letter of support for the bill [here](#).

Representatives Lou Correa (D-CA) and Troy Nehls (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan Directing Resources for Officers Navigating Emergencies (DRONE) Act of 2025. This bipartisan legislation would allow law enforcement to use federal grants to purchase and operate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or “drones.” . You can learn more the bill [here](#).

On a related note, the Aviation Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing on counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS). Subcommittee Chair Nehls emphasized the need for a properly scaled, well-balanced, and legally sound framework for C-UAS authorities and technologies. He is advocating for expanded pilot programs for state and local law enforcement, including the use of the DeDrone Defender—a firearm-like device that disrupts drones using radio waves instead of bullets. Dr. Catherine Cahill from the Alaska Center for UAS Integration (ACUASI) testified that the U.S. needs more testing on C-UAS technologies. This hearing is part of a broader bipartisan and bicameral effort by the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees to establish federal regulations for drone and counter-drone operations.

The Senate continued to vote on President Trumps nominees, including confirming Pam Bondi as Attorney General and Russell Vought to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Attorney General Pam Bondi moved quickly and issued 14 directives aimed at realigning the department with the priorities of the Trump administration. Among the first-day actions were efforts to rein in federal influence in investigations and a renewed focus on cracking down on illegal immigration. You can read the directives and learn more about these orders [here](#).

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee voted by voice on Wednesday to [approve legislation \(S. 315\)](#) that would direct the administration to require car manufacturers to install AM radio-capable devices in new passenger vehicles without additional charge. This measure has support among public safety officials who see it as essential for ensuring public access to emergency broadcasts.

Lastly, Senate Republicans are moving ahead with a budget plan that would boost defense and border spending before considering trillions in tax-cut extensions. The GOP released a framework for a border, immigration, and defense bill that could add more than half a trillion dollars to the federal deficit over the next decade, the first procedural step to enacting President Donald Trump’s agenda. It’s likely to be at odds with an emerging House plan that’s expected to combine tax cuts and spending in a single bill. You can read more about this development and the released framework [here](#).

## Exciting Opportunity- BBM is Hiring a Full Time Consultant

**Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC (BBM) is hiring!** Are you passionate about public safety technology? Have you served as a senior executive in a public safety

agency? Do you have experience in the private sector helping to position high-quality products and services in the public safety market that help agencies achieve their missions *more* effectively, *more* efficiently, and *more* safely? Are you motivated by building and maintaining a broad network of trusted relationships? We would love to hear from you.

**BBM is seeking candidates for a full-time Consultant position.** We are a government relations consulting firm whose mission is to support public safety. Our policy work helps public safety practitioners advocate for supportive policies and programs. Our consulting work helps connect innovative products and services to front line personnel to help them do their jobs as safely, effectively, and efficiently as possible.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Lead collaborative efforts with cross-functional teams to craft compelling product advocacy strategies.
- Conduct strategic outreach in support of business development efforts for corporate clients;
- Represent clients' interests in meetings with local, state, and federal agency officials and industry stakeholders;
- Provide expert guidance on law enforcement and public safety policies to corporate clients;
- Analyze current trends in law enforcement technology and practices to inform client recommendations;
- Assist clients in navigating procurement procedures for law enforcement equipment, technology, and services;

### **Qualifications:**

- Minimum 10 years of progressive experience in public safety, with at least 5 years in an executive or executive position;
- Business development or consulting experience in the private sector, particularly in areas related to law enforcement and public safety;
- In-depth understanding of government procurement procedures and contract processes;
- Strong knowledge of federal, state, and local public safety policies and regulations;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the proven ability to build and maintain relationships with diverse stakeholders;
- Proven track record of developing and implementing successful public safety initiatives.

### **Preferred Skills:**

- Proven ability to cultivate and leverage professional relationships across:
  - Law enforcement agencies
  - Local, state, and federal government organizations
  - Public safety professional associations at the state and national levels
  - Private sector security organizations
  - Technology vendors

- Policy-making circles at municipal, county, state, or federal levels.

**Preferred Network Attributes:**

- Extensive connections within:
  - Federal, state, and local law enforcement communities;
  - Public safety technology providers;
  - Government procurement departments;
  - Emergency response and emergency management organizations;
  - Homeland security organizations.

Starting salary range is between 175k and 200k, commensurate with experience, with excellent opportunity to grow.

The position can be based anywhere in the continental United States. BBM's headquarters office is in downtown Washington, DC.

Frequent travel within the United States should be expected.

If you are interested, please send a cover letter, resume, and list of references to [info@bbm-dc.com](mailto:info@bbm-dc.com) by February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

[Download the job flyer here](#)

## Clients in the Spotlight



### **Sheriff Michael Bouchard Testifies in Congress on Existing and Emerging Drug Threats**

Sheriff Michael Bouchard of Oakland County, Michigan and Vice President of Government Affairs for the Major County Sheriffs of America testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee during a hearing titled "Combatting Existing and Emerging Illicit Drug Threats." In his testimony, Sheriff Bouchard discussed emerging drug trends in his jurisdiction and highlighted innovative strategies implemented by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office to address the opioid crisis and other drug-related challenges. He urged Congress to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act and permanently schedule fentanyl analogues, support the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, enhance regulations and penalties for the illicit use of pill presses, improve healthcare in correctional facilities, strengthen reentry programs, bolster law enforcement investigative tools, and advance other key initiatives.

You can read the Sheriffs written testimony and watch the hearing [HERE](#).

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### **Representative Lisa McClain Honors Sheriff Michael Bouchard on House Floor**



**Chairwoman Lisa McClain** ✓ 🔒

@RepLisaMcClain

The 1.2 million Michiganders living in Oakland County have a to call home thanks to [@OaklandSheriff](#) Michael Bouchard.

On behalf of our communities in Oakland County, thank you service, and congratulations on being named Sheriff of the Year [@MCSheriffs](#).





### **Sheriff Don Barnes Testifies in Congress on Need to Permanently Schedule Fentanyl Analogues**

Sheriff Don Barnes of Orange County, California, and Vice President for Homeland Security for the Major County Sheriffs of America testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary during a hearing titled "The Poisoning of America: Fentanyl, Its Analogues, and the Need for Permanent Class Scheduling." During his testimony, Sheriff Barnes presented data on fentanyl-related deaths and seizures in California, highlighting the comprehensive strategy Orange County has implemented to combat this crisis. He urged Congress to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act, support the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, safeguard law enforcement investigative tools, and eliminate the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Program.

You can read the Sheriffs written testimony and watch the hearing [HERE](#)



### **National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition Hosts 2025 Delegate's Conference**

The National Narcotics Officers Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) comprises representatives from state narcotics officers associations, the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS), National HIDTA Directors Association, National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies and the territory of Puerto Rico representing more than 55,000 law enforcement officers across the country. The NNOAC actively researches, monitors and supports legislative initiatives to increase the effectiveness of narcotics enforcement and law enforcement in general and functions as an umbrella organization coordinating the efforts of the state associations working through their congressional delegations to ensure a unified voice on domestic and drug-related crime issues in Washington, DC.

Representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and Congress spoke to delegates regarding current and emerging issues affecting narcotic enforcement and importance of state and local law enforcement in tackling the most pressing public safety issues of the day.



*NNOAC Presents Speaker Mike Johnson the Outstanding Member of the House Award*



*NNOAC Presents Senator Bill Cassidy the Outstanding Member of the Senate Award*



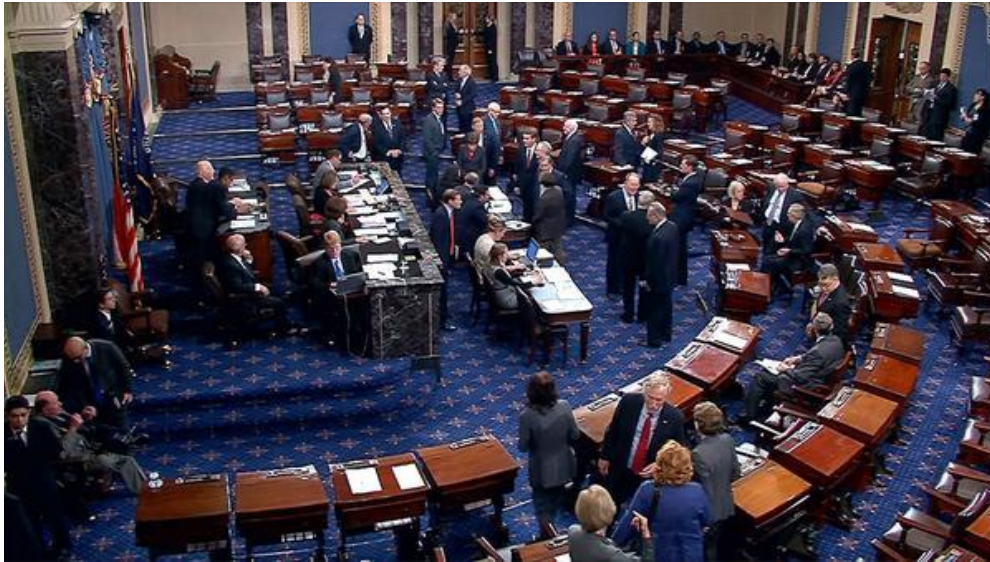
*Video: Senator Katie Britt References NNOAC and it's Support for HALT Fentanyl Act during Senate Committee Hearing*

## BBM Blog Posts of the Week

BBM posts timely updates on topics of interest to the public safety community. Please explore this week's blog posts below and click on any topic that interests you to stay updated. Email a member of the BBM team today to get our blog content delivered directly to your inbox.

- [Senate GOP Moving First on Border, Defense Budget Proposal](#)
- [ICYMI: New Cars Must Keep AM Radio Under Bill Advanced by Senate Panel](#)
- [House Passes the HALT Fentanyl Act](#)
- [Pam Bondi Issues Swift Directives on Day 1 as Trump's Attorney General](#)
- [New CJS Democratic Leaders](#)
- [Grassley, Durbin Announce Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Assignments for the 119th Congress](#)
- [The Hill: "Bicameral Crypto Working Group"](#)
- [POLITICO: Grassley eyes next week to move FBI director pick](#)
- [POLITICO: Bondi confirmed as attorney general](#)
- [ICYMI: Trump Spending Freeze Temporarily Blocked by Federal Judge](#)

# Floor Activity



## Senate

Confirmation of Christopher Wright  
to be Secretary of Energy-  
Confirmed 59-38

Confirmation of Doug Collins to be  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs-  
Confirmed 77-23

Confirmation of Pam Bondi to be  
Attorney General- Confirmed 54-46

Confirmation of Eric Turner to be  
Secretary of Housing and Urban  
Development- Confirmed 55-44

Confirmation of Russell Vought to  
be Director of the Office of  
Management and Budget-  
Confirmed 53-47

## House of Representatives

### [H.R.836 - Emergency Wildfire Fighting Technology Act of 2025](#)

This bill requires the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to (1) jointly evaluate the container aerial firefighting system to assess its use to mitigate and suppress wildfires, and (2) report on the results of the evaluation to Congress. The system allows for the use of airdrop-capable disposable containers of water or fire retardant in order to increase the number of airlift assets available for wildfire emergencies.

Passed House by Voice Vote

### [H.R.27 - HALT Fentanyl Act](#)

This bill permanently places fentanyl-related substances as a class into schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

Passed House (312-108)

# Congressional Hearings



## Hearings This Past Week

Tuesday, February 4

- Senate Judiciary Committee – *Hearing to Examine the Poisoning of America, Focusing on Fentanyl, its Analogues, and the Need for Permanent Class Scheduling*

Wednesday, February 5

- House Homeland Security Committee – *Hearing on Preparing the Pipeline: Examining the State of America's Cyber Workforce*
- House Oversight and Government Reform Committee – *Hearing on Rightsizing Government*
- Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Meeting- *Legislative Markup*

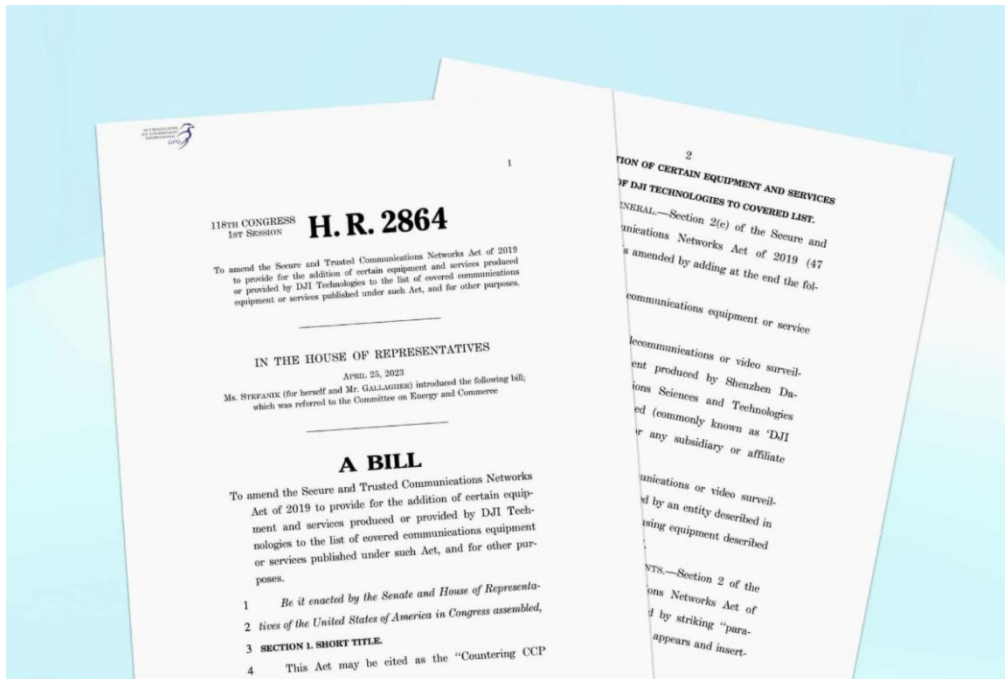
Thursday, February 6

## Hearings Next Week

Tuesday, February 11

- Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust (Committee on the Judiciary)- *Reining in the Administrative State: Regulatory and Administrative Law Reform*
- Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence (Committee on Financial Services)- *A Golden Age of Digital Assets: Charting a Path Forward*

- Subcommittee on Health (House Energy and Commerce Committee) – *Hearing on Combatting Existing and Emerging Illicit Drug Threats*
- Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (House Financial Services Committee) – *Hearing on Operation Choke Point 2.0: The Biden Administration's Efforts to Put Crypto in the Crosshairs*
- Subcommittee on Aviation (Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)- *Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems*



- BBM has compiled a list of this week's newly introduced legislation relevant to Justice, Public Safety, and Homeland Security in the 119th Congress. You can download the information as an Excel spreadsheet by clicking [here](#).

## Congressional Calendar

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su       | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|          |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |

House and Senate in Session

Senate in Session Only

House in Session Only

Federal Holidays

## Community and Client News



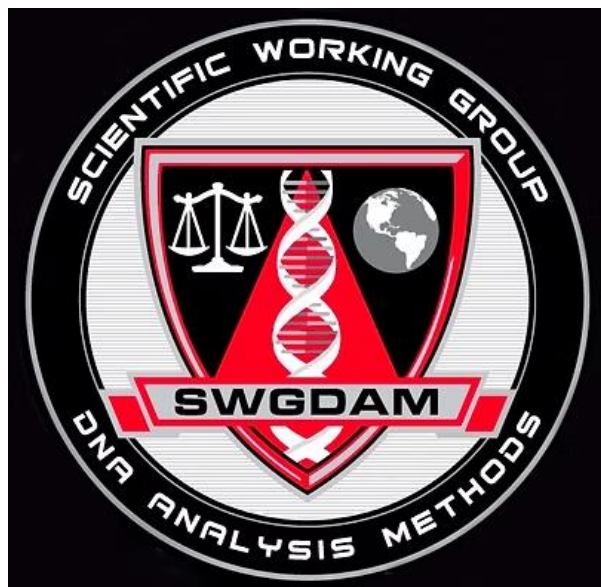
### **MCCA Releases Violent Crime Report Year End 2024 & 2023**

Today, the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) released its Year End 2024 & 2023 violent crime report.

Violent crime continues to trend down for the majority of MCCA member agencies. When compared to 2019 pre-pandemic levels, homicides are up 1% and aggravated assaults are up 3% in the USA.

The full report is [HERE](#) and all violent crime reports can be accessed via the [Association's website](#).

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### **Rapid DNA Evidence Coming to CODIS**

**FBI approves Quality Assurance Standards for allowing evidence tested on Rapid DNA into CODIS - Effective July 1, 2025**

The FBI Has Approved Changes to the QAS Effective July 1, 2025!!! The FBI has approved changes to the [Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories](#) and [Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories](#). These changes will take effect on July 1, 2025. To assist laboratories in their preparations for the issuance of the new 2025 QAS, links are provided here for pre-issuance copies as well as to comparison tables prepared by SWGDAM during its revision work [2020 Forensic QAS vs 2025 Forensic QAS](#) and [2020 Databasing QAS vs 2025 Databasing QAS](#).

[Learn More Here](#)

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### **Rep. Correa, Nehls Introduce Legislation to Provide Drone Funding for Local Law Enforcement**

*Bipartisan Legislation Would Allow Law Enforcement To Use Federal Grants To Purchase And Operate Drones*

Representatives Lou Correa (D-CA) and Troy Nehls (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan Directing Resources for Officers Navigating Emergencies (DRONE) Act of 2025. This bipartisan legislation would allow law enforcement to use federal grants to purchase and operate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or “drones.”

“Hard-working taxpayers on Main Street deserve a community that is safe and secure, and their children deserve safe communities to grow and thrive in. And giving our public safety officers the tools they need to protect and defend the communities they swore an oath to serve is how we make that safer future a reality,” Correa said. “Drones continue to play an ever-growing role in protecting our communities and responding to emergencies in a safer manner. By continuing to unlock their potential we can save taxpayers millions and make our streets safer. It’s a win-win.”

Drones are an important tool for law enforcement agencies and can be used to help with bomb squad missions, responses to hazardous materials spills, traffic collision investigations, post-incident crime scene preservation and documentation, and search and rescue missions. This legislation would add

drones as an eligible expense to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants programs.

“As a former law enforcement officer and Sheriff, I know how important it is for our nation’s law enforcement officers to have all the tools they need to protect and defend our communities,” Nehls said. “I’m proud to introduce this common-sense bill with Congressman Correa, which would allow law enforcement to purchase drones to make our communities safer.”

Currently, the purchasing and operation of drones are not eligible expenses under the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and COPS grants programs. The DRONE Act allows these federal grant funds to be used to purchase and operate drones so that more first responders can access these critical tools.

This legislation has also been endorsed by: Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, National Fraternal Order of Police, Peace Officers Research Association of California, Major County Sheriffs of America, California Police Chiefs’ Association.

“Unmanned Aerial Systems have become an important tool for law enforcement. Agencies like the Orange County Sheriff’s Department use a UAS program for post-incident crime scene preservation, bomb squad missions, response to hazardous materials spills, traffic collision investigations, and search and rescue missions,” said Sheriff Barnes of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department. “UAS programs can also provide critical information for life preservation missions such as barricaded suspects, hostage situations, active shooters, apprehension of armed and dangerous and/ or violent suspects, and high-risk search warrants. The DRONE Act will authorize the use of critical federal funds to purchase UAS equipment and build out programs to improve the safety of our local communities.”

“The DRONE Act represents a crucial step forward in modernizing law enforcement capabilities across America and addressing the public safety challenges we face today,” said Brian R. Marvel, President of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC). “By enabling agencies to utilize existing grant program funds for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), this legislation will help departments of all sizes access technology that enhances officer and public safety, improves response times and operational efficiency, and provides a cost-effective alternative to traditional aerial methods. Thank you, Representative Correa, for your leadership in ensuring officers have access to the resources they need to effectively serve our communities. This is exactly the kind of common-sense approach we need.”

“There is no question that UAS technologies have been effectively used by law enforcement agencies to enhance both public safety and the safety of the brave men and women who protect and serve our communities,” said Mathew Silverman, President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. “Allowing federal Byrne/JAG funds to be used to purchase and operate UAS systems provides even more state and local agencies with access to this lifesaving technology, and we appreciate the leadership of Reps. Correa and Nehls in offering this important legislation.”

“The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones, by law enforcement is growing because the devices can be so broadly applied in many public safety situations. Missing person searches, gathering information at crime scenes,

monitoring large-scale events involving crowds, all of these uses have made drones a valuable asset to many law enforcement agencies,” said Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police. “The legislation sponsored by Representatives Correa and Nehls would allow local and State agencies to use Federal funds to help purchase and operate drones for public safety purposes. It’s an important investment in technology and we’re proud to support the legislation and we’re grateful to Representatives Correa and Nehls for their leadership.”

“The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) commends Congressmen Correa and Nehls for their leadership in introducing the Directing Resources for Officers Navigating Emergencies (DRONE) Act of 2025,” said Megan Noland, Executive Director of Major County Sheriffs of America. “By adding unmanned aircraft systems as an eligible expense to the Byrne and COPS grant programs, we can equip law enforcement with the best technology to protect communities and respond to emergencies effectively. This bill will help ensure that law enforcement agencies across the country have the resources necessary to enhance public safety and improve their response capabilities.”

You can read the full text of this legislation [HERE](#).

You can access the press release [HERE](#).



### **What law enforcement needs to know about the 287(g) program and ICE partnerships**

The 287(g) program allows ICE to deputize local officers to perform immigration enforcement duties, including identifying and processing noncitizens in custody for potential removal

As immigration policy remains an ongoing focus at the national level, the 287(g) program is drawing renewed attention. The program, which allows state and local law enforcement agencies to partner with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for immigration enforcement, has been in place since 1996.

Recently, the Trump administration signaled plans to expand the program, proposing changes that would lower detention standards to encourage more sheriff's offices to participate and increase the number of formal agreements between ICE and local law enforcement agencies, Reuters reported. According to ICE, the expansion aims to enhance federal-local cooperation in immigration enforcement, particularly in states where immigration policy remains a significant focus.

[\*\*Read More Here\*\*](#)



## **Bureau of Justice Assistance U.S. Department of Justice**

### **Grantee Training Series**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will host a grantee training series that will focus on program-specific guidance, BJA grant award management, and performance measures.

### **Program-Specific Grantee Orientations**

Orientation sessions by grant program will take place in the coming months. These will provide grantees an opportunity to meet key BJA staff, training and technical assistance providers, other grantees, and discuss program specific requirements.

Stay tuned for more information about these sessions.

### **Managing Your Award**

The **Managing Your Award** training will cover critical aspects of award management from start to finish, including award acceptance, understanding and meeting award conditions, reporting requirements, making changes to your award, and how to access additional resources and support.

Each session includes time for attendee questions and answers.

*Please note: This training will be offered four times, but grantees need only to attend one session.*

**Register for one of the following Managing Your Award sessions to participate:**

- [January 16, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET](#)
- [February 13, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET](#)

Sessions were also held in November and December. Access materials from the November session:

- [Watch the recording](#)
- [Access the presentation](#)
- [Read the transcript](#)

Access materials from the December session:

- [Access the presentation](#)
- [Read the transcript](#)

## **Introduction to BJA Performance Measures and Reporting**

BJA will also host **Introduction to BJA Performance Measures and Reporting** sessions. The virtual training will discuss the purpose and benefits of performance management, BJA's requirements for collecting and sharing performance data, reporting timelines and systems, and where to find helpful resources to assist with reporting.

*Please note: This training will be offered two times, but grantees need only to attend one session.*

### **Register for the following Introduction to BJA Performance Measures and Reporting session to participate:**

- [January 8, 2025](#), from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET

A session was also held on December 5, 2024. Access materials from that session:

- [Watch the recording](#)
- [Access the presentation](#)
- [Read the transcript](#)



## **NTER 2025 Dave Sobczyk Memorial Award Nominations are Open**

On behalf of the National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Program Office, the Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI) Program Management Office is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2025 Dave Sobczyk Memorial Award, which honors Fusion Center personnel that have applied and advanced the SAR process in innovative ways to achieve mission success.

Nomination submissions are intended to articulate how you—or others—have optimized the utility from SARs to support analytic production and strategic reporting processes. Fusion Center personnel are eligible to nominate a staff member of the Fusion Center network that works in a SAR-based or adjacent portfolio.

The Dave Sobczyk Memorial Award recognizes Fusion Center analysts that exemplify exceptional adherence to the Suspicious Activity Reporting mission.

Your nomination should include specific examples of excellence based on the awards criteria.

[Learn More Here](#)



### **Matthew Dunagan Named Seventh Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association**

The Florida Sheriffs Association's (FSA) Board of Directors announced the selection of Matthew Dunagan to be the seventh Executive Director in the 131-year history of the association. He takes over on March 1, 2025, upon the retirement of the current FSA Executive Director Steve Casey.

Matthew spent the last decade as the FSA's Deputy Executive Director of Operations where he was responsible for leading the operational efforts for the association, including coordinating training programs, task force operations, emergency management response as well as public safety programs across the state. In addition to these responsibilities, he led FSA's legislative outreach initiatives.

In 2018, Matthew worked with the sheriffs to get Amendment 10 on the ballot to ensure all counties had an elected and independent sheriff. FSA ran a robust statewide educational campaign and Amendment 10 passed with 63% support. The positive results of passage of this constitutional amendment finally occurred in November when more than 1 million voters of Miami-Dade County got to directly elect their sheriff for the first time in more than 50 years.

"The Florida Sheriffs Association is proud to announce Matthew Dunagan as our next executive director. For over a decade, Matthew has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a steadfast commitment to public safety, working tirelessly to advance the mission of our association and the sheriffs we serve. As

we prepare for this transition, I want to thank Steve Casey for his extraordinary service and leadership. We look forward to building on FSA's 131-year legacy with Matthew at the helm, continuing our work to keep Florida safe and strong," said FSA President Sheriff Bill Prummell.

Prior to joining the Florida Sheriffs Association, Matthew was the Chief Policy Analyst in the Prescription Drug and Special Projects Section for Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (2011-2014). He previously served in the Executive Office of the Governor as the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement for the Office of Drug Control (2010) under the leadership of Director Bruce D. Grant. Matthew also served as executive staff in the Secretary's Office for the Florida Department of Corrections during the tenure of James R. McDonough (2006-2008).

"I am grateful for the appointment to lead this historic association," said Matthew Dunagan. "Florida sheriffs have been the guiding voice for public safety in our state Capitol, and I look forward to ensuring sheriffs continue to lead this great state with honor and integrity."

Matthew has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration and public policy from Florida State University, where he was a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration and the Golden Key National Honor Society. He is also a graduate of the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute's Chief Executive Seminar, Class 50.

[Learn More Here](#)

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**A Leader Who Chased the Sunshine- Honoring Pete Modafferi**  
***By Ray Guidetti***

If you're from Rockland County, then Peter Modafferi is a household name. As Chief of Detectives, he left an indelible mark on the county as a man driven by kindness and justice.

In fact, New York State Supreme Court Judge Tom Zugibe, who previously served as Rockland County District Attorney, once said, “There is absolutely no one that had a greater impact on public safety in our community than Pete Modafferì.” He went on to call Pete “a prophet in his own land”- a rare and powerful tribute.

I first met “Chief Pete” in the wake of September 11, when the world was upside down. Though we lived less than 15 miles from one another, I met him not at home but on the national circuit. A larger-than-life presence, his voice was strong and unwavering in the realm of criminal investigations and intelligence.

As the former chair of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Investigative Operations Committee, Pete’s leadership shaped law enforcement in the post-9/11 world. He helped spearhead innovative initiatives like the Counterterrorism Collaboration Interoperability Project, setting the stage for how agencies across the country would share intelligence and work together.

Tragically, Pete was no stranger to terrorism. In 1981, he was among the first on the scene of the infamous Brinks robbery-murders at the Nyack Thruway entrance, an attack carried out by domestic terror groups. As heartbreaking as that day was, Pete used it as fuel for his mission, driving him to establish Rockland County’s criminal intelligence unit - a model that became a national standard.

Pete was a relentless force for justice, a creative and forward-thinking leader at a time when law enforcement needed transformation. He was ahead of his time, raising awareness about human and sex trafficking well before it hit mainstream law enforcement discussions. I personally remember him assisting us in New Jersey in the lead-up to Super Bowl XLVIII, ensuring that proactive measures were in place to combat such trafficking.

Moreover, Pete’s advocacy for leveraging cutting-edge forensic science played a crucial role in modernizing investigative practices. In 2017, he remarked, “DNA made it a different world as technology has enhanced law enforcement and investigations today. The technology can help convict or exonerate a suspect.”

[Read More Here](#)



**Walk Softly and Carry a Big Stick**

***By Pete Gagliardi, Ray Guidetti, and George Belsky***

In 2008, after sponsorship from the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) and the local ATF office, the New Jersey Attorney General issued a directive requiring all police departments in the state to collect and input Crime Gun Intelligence (CGI) data on firearms used in crimes.

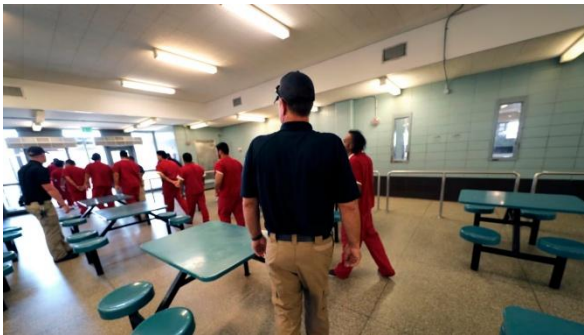
This directive, among the first of its kind in the U.S., mandated the tracing of recovered firearms through the ATF's eTrace and the NJ Trace system, checking NCIC for stolen status, and processing fired evidence through ATF's NIBIN Network to determine if firearms were linked to other crimes.

By 2013, the New Jersey legislature codified this Attorney General directive into law (Public Law 2013 Chapter 162). The NJSP, in partnership with local, county, and federal agencies led the way in planning and implementing processes and policies to meet and exceed the new legal requirements it faced.

By 2023, the results were striking: New Jersey's gun homicide rate was 59% below the national average. Anyone familiar with this issue in New Jersey understands that this remarkable reduction is due to the incredible collaboration across local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as forensic labs and prosecutorial entities. This success story underscores how policy leadership - at the highest level - can drive real, lasting change.

**[Read More Here](#)**

## Articles We Read This Week



### **Local law enforcement officials across U.S. say they lack resources needed to help detain migrants**

With U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement facilities now over capacity nationwide, officials in President Trump's administration are appealing to local law enforcement for help. As of Tuesday, the agency was holding nearly 42,000 migrant detainees, putting detention facilities at 109% capacity. The first group of migrant detainees arrived on Tuesday at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, which Mr. Trump plans to make a large scale detention center. At the National Sheriff Association's winter conference this month, Tom Homan, the

administration's border czar, asked for local law enforcement's assistance when it comes to detaining migrants.

[Text Link](#)



## **ICE releases some migrant detainees as its detention facilities reach 109% capacity**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is releasing some migrant detainees, in some cases dozens per day, as space in its detention system has exceeded maximum capacity amid a spike in arrests by the agency under President Trump, internal government statistics obtained by CBS News show.

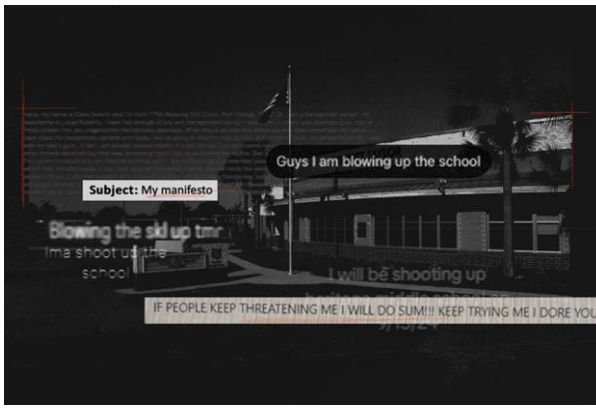
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## **San Francisco Leads Lawsuit Against Trump's Threats to Punish Sanctuary Cities**

San Francisco and four other cities and counties are suing the Trump administration over its threats to punish jurisdictions that have sanctuary immigration policies, calling the moves unconstitutional.

[Text Link](#)



## Children joked about school shootings. Then the sheriff sent them to jail.

Volusia's elected sheriff, Mike Chitwood, a registered independent and brash Philadelphia native, decided he'd had enough. In the past week, he'd deployed dozens of deputies and spent an extra \$21,000 in taxpayer money. On the previous night alone, his office had received 54 tips.

[Text Link](#)



## San Francisco grants new mayor 'unprecedented' powers to battle fentanyl crisis

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to give newly elected Mayor Daniel Lurie greater powers and flexibility to expedite the city's response to a fentanyl crisis that has turned sidewalks into open-air dens of drug consumption and homelessness. The board voted 10-1 to eliminate competitive bidding requirements for some contracts and allow the administration to solicit private donations to quickly add 1,500 shelter beds and hire more public safety and behavioral health specialists.

[Text Link](#)



## **Court says banning gun sales to young adults under 21 is unconstitutional**

A U.S. appeals court on Thursday ruled against a federal law requiring young adults to be 21 to buy handguns, finding it violated the Second Amendment. The ruling, handed down by a panel of three judges on the conservative U.S. 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, comes amid major shifts in the national firearm legal landscape following a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that expanded gun rights in 2022.

[Text Link](#)



## **FBI turns over details of 5,000 employees who worked on January 6 cases to Trump Justice Department, as agents sue**

FBI officials have complied with demands to provide the Justice Department with details of thousands of employees who worked on investigations related to the January 6, 2021, US Capitol riot, according to people familiar with the situation. The demand has caused consternation among FBI employees who fear it is meant to amass a list of personnel for possible termination by the Trump administration.

[Text Link](#)

## Upcoming Events



### **National Fusion Center Association Annual Training Event 2025**

Washington, D.C.

April 22- April 24, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)



### **2025 Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies Spring Conference**

Biloxi, Mississippi

April 27- April 30, 2025

[Learn More Here](#)

## About BBM



Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC is a team of experienced professionals who serve as trusted advisors to law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence practitioners and solution providers.

Our government relations practice helps clients advance critical policy priorities with Congress, federal agencies, and state legislatures. Our

business strategy consulting practice enables companies to connect innovative products and services with market needs.

Ron Brooks  
Partner  
[rbrooks@bbm-dc.com](mailto:rbrooks@bbm-dc.com)

Ben Bawden  
Partner  
[bbawden@bbm-dc.com](mailto:bbawden@bbm-dc.com)

Chris Moore  
Partner Emeritus  
[cmoore@bbm-dc.com](mailto:cmoore@bbm-dc.com)

Melissa Nee  
Partner  
[mnee@bbm-dc.com](mailto:mnee@bbm-dc.com)

Dean Kueter  
Vice President of Government Relations  
[dkueter@bbm-dc.com](mailto:dkueter@bbm-dc.com)

Jake Schiff  
Director of Government Relations  
[jschiff@bbm-dc.com](mailto:jschiff@bbm-dc.com)

Rob Wright  
Director of Government Relations  
[rwright@bbm-dc.com](mailto:rwright@bbm-dc.com)

Joseph Fernando  
Government Affairs Associate  
[jfernando@bbm-dc.com](mailto:jfernando@bbm-dc.com)