

**STATEMENT OF MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS REGARDING HOUSE
RESOLUTION 404**

**House Homeland Security Committee
Chairman Thompson:
Ranking Member King:**

May 18, 2009

Sirs:

It has come to the attention of the Major Cities Chiefs Association that HR 404 will come to the Full Committee for a vote tomorrow. The Major Cities Chiefs agrees that document that was the underlying cause of this resolution was poorly researched and produced, deeply flawed and an embarrassment to the Department of Homeland Security. It certainly did not represent MCC's values and standards of professional conduct.

All of that being said, subsequent positive remedial steps have been taken by DHS to address the situation.

- **The document has been retracted, and the Department has apologized to veteran's organizations.**
- **New pre-release review procedures are in place.**
- **The Department has provided a full briefing to Committee staff regarding the circumstances surrounding the bulletin.**

Most importantly, Secretary Janet Napolitano has appointed one of State and Local law enforcement' own, Col. Bart Johnson (NYSP, Ret.) as Deputy Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis. The Secretary and new Deputy Under Secretary have pledged to refocus the efforts of I&A so that it better addresses the needs of State-Local-Tribal governments. Our experience with Col. Johnson as Chair of the Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Committee is that he is a man of highest integrity, and very respectful of privacy and civil liberties concerns. We have utmost confidence in both the Secretary and Col. Johnson, and we look forward to working with them to refocus the work effort and work product of I&A.

Based on the above and the fact that most if not all of the underlying documents requested by the Committee are being provided, the Major Cities Chiefs Association sees little value in continuing debate on this particular bulletin. We are confident that necessary change has been implemented, and we believe this new leadership should be given the opportunity to deliver the type and quality of work product the Department and this nation can be proud of.