



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

## Press Release

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### Manhattan Institute and LAPD Unveil Counterterrorism Academy for State and Local Cops

Los Angeles: Manhattan Institute Vice President for Policy Research Howard Husock, along with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Police Chief William Bratton today launched the pilot program of the National Counter-Terrorism Academy (NCTA) for state and local law enforcement – the first of its kind. The academy is a partnership between the LAPD and the Center for Policing Terrorism at the Manhattan Institute, and will give state and local cops the training they need to be a vital tool in the War on Terror. The pilot class will run through July 30, and will bring counterterrorism training to nearly 70 students from more than 27 public agencies throughout the states of California and Nevada. The LAPD plans to expand the academy to accommodate students from across the country and around the world.

The Manhattan Institute has a proven track record of confronting the most challenging public policy issues, including policing. Manhattan Institute scholar George Kelling developed the famed "Broken Windows" theory of policing in the 1980s, positing that combating minor quality of life crimes such as public urination would lead to a drop in major crimes. One of the early adopters of this theory was then-Chief of the New York City Transit Police, William Bratton. He was soon able to test "Broken Windows" citywide as New York's Police Commissioner.

Bratton also introduced the COMPSTAT system, under which the minute details of criminal patterns are analyzed, and individual precinct commanders are held accountable for their crime fighting strategies. The results of "Broken Windows" policing and COMPSTAT so impressed Bratton, he brought them with him when he became Chief of the LAPD. These policing innovations have been successfully duplicated in many cities, leading to a substantial drop in crime.

These same ideas which empowered cops to prevent, rather than simply respond to crime should be applied to terrorism. America's roughly 700,000 state and local cops have the potential to actively prevent disasters rather than responding to them. The NCTA will tap into the potential of this "first preventers" style of policing by training street level officers to recognize signs of terror-related activity and to properly share and analyze intelligence with the cooperation of federal authorities. The NCTA is the first facility run by state and local law enforcement where officers will receive basic homeland security education based on a standardized curriculum.

"The Manhattan Institute welcomed the opportunity to contribute to a curriculum that will expose law enforcement and other public safety professionals to innovative thinking about the links between common crime and political violence, and to do so without losing sight of constitutional rights and civil liberties," said Howard Husock, the Manhattan Institute's Vice President for Policy Research.

"Police officers are out in the communities every day, gathering critical information and fighting crime. With the proper training, we can apply the skills we already have to the fight against terrorism as well," said Chief Bratton. "This academy will offer standardized, counter-terrorism training that teaches us how to apply the crime-fighting and information-gathering strengths we already have to the issue of terrorism."

*The Mission of the Manhattan Institute is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.*

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