County leaders to explore critical justice, public safety issues at symposium

WASHINGTON, D.C. – County leaders from across the country this week are exploring local, state and federal homeland security and public safety legislative and policy priorities at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Symposium in Fulton County/Atlanta, Ga.

The annual gathering, hosted by Fulton County and NACo Jan. 23–24, provides members of NACo’s Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee (JPS) and other NACo leadership an opportunity to network with fellow county officials and hear directly from national experts on issues under the jurisdiction of the policy-making committee.

The JPS committee is responsible to develop NACo policies pertaining to criminal justice and public safety systems, including justice planning, law enforcement, courts, corrections, homeland security, community crime prevention, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, emergency management, fire prevention and control and civil disturbances.

“Counties are involved in almost every aspect of law enforcement and crime prevention, including policing, corrections and judicial and legal services,” said Kay Cashion, commissioner, Guilford County, N.C., who chairs NACo’s JPS committee. “The symposium provides an opportunity for us to hear directly from experts and share information on critical justice and public safety issues affecting communities across the country.”

Several sessions will be held over the two days, including: The Future of Federal Homeland Security Funding; Technology – An Enabler for Public Safety; National Standards for Youth Charged with Status Offenses – Local, State and Federal Policy Impacts; Coordinating a Systems Approach to Behavioral Health and Justice; Addressing Recidivism – Expunging, Sealing and Other Remedies for Criminal Records; Managing Risk and Targeting Costs and Flood Insurance Reform – Premium Rates, Maps, Affordability and Risk Reduction.
Also, county leaders will hear updates from the U.S. Department of Justice and White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.


The full meeting agenda is available on the NACo website.

Maintaining safe communities is one of the most important functions of county governments. Counties invest more than $70.2 billion on courts, police/sheriff law enforcement and correctional facilities/jails.

In addition to detention, counties offer an array of training and re-entry programs, like employment skills development that facilitate the transition from incarceration back into the community.

Counties are the first responders to natural disasters and other major emergencies. County public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety personnel, are responsible for on-the-ground response and recovery action.

More information about Why Counties Matter is available on the NACo website or by contacting Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America’s 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.