

**FORTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Portland, Oregon  
August 24, 25, 26, 1965**

**Resolution No. 261: Support of Law Enforcement Authority and the Maintenance of Law and Order**

**Origin: Illinois**

**Submitted By: Convention Committee on National Security  
(As Amended and Consolidated with Resolution No. 536 (OK))**

WHEREAS, In the Preamble of The American Legion Constitution, the express policy is, "To maintain Law and Order" and "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation"; and

WHEREAS, Our communities, states and nation are confronted with a national crime rate that has increased five time as fast as our population since 1958; which has caused the death of 225 police officers in the last five years and physical assault on over 10 per cent of the police officers each year, with a general decrease in respect for law and order, thereby undermining our American constitutional way of life; and

WHEREAS, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, stated "that cooperation between law enforcement agencies and citizens of our nation is absolutely essential to reverse the ever increasing incidence of crime"; and

WHEREAS, Law and order cannot prevail in any community if the citizens are apathetic, disobedient, disrespectful, unconcerned and do not support but verbally and physically assault the police officers while at the same time are demanding police protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement by the very nature of its responsibility has been the scape-goat for those who resent law and order through acts of civil disobedience, participation in riots, looting and demonstrations, while at the same time seek public sympathy on controversial and questionable issues; and

WHEREAS, Those representing dissident groups are championing the establishment of police review boards, composed of member from questionably intentional groups for the purpose of hearing charges of alleged police brutality, both physical and verbal in their efforts to destroy police morale and effective law enforcement; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Portland, Oregon, August 24, 25, 26, 1965, That we reaffirm our support of law and order and law enforcement officers at all levels of government, and to enlist the support of all loyal American citizens to this end; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion denounces the concept of civil disobedience as a means of expressing dissatisfaction instead of the due process of law through judicial means; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion hereby reaffirms strong opposition to the establishment of civilian police review boards; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion through the national commander emphasizes and promotes the support and maintenance of law and order as the prime objective of The American Legion as a pre-requisite to the American way of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**