



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

RESOLUTION

Adopted at the 119th Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
October 3, 2012

Support for Environmental Justice

Submitted by: Environmental Crimes Committee
ENV.001.a12

WHEREAS, the Environmental Crimes Committee of The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has been actively engaged in training for the recognition and response to environmental crime; and

WHEREAS, environmental justice (EJ) is defined as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” U.S. EPA, Plan EJ 2014; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Eric Holder underscored his support for addressing environmental injustices when he stated:

“Today, minority and low-income families are the most likely Americans to live near hazardous industrial pollution sites or to have a landfill proposed in their community. Their neighborhoods are more likely to have polluted water and soil. Their children are more likely to breathe polluted air and suffer from asthma. This is unacceptable. And it is unconscionable. But through the aggressive enforcement of federal environmental laws in every community, I believe we can – and I know we must – change the status quo.”

WHEREAS, the Environmental Crimes Committee recognizes that environmental crime is often a crime of economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Crimes Committee recognizes that the victims of environmental crime are generally those people with less economic opportunity and are disproportionately affected by environmental crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Crimes Committee recognizes that all people have the right to be protected against environmental crime; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Crimes Committee recognizes the critical role that law enforcement officers play in anti-environmental crimes programs and effective environmental justice initiatives, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the IACP strongly urges law enforcement agencies to train their officers for the recognition of and response to environmental crimes; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Environmental Protection Agency should support efforts to expand state and local law enforcement assistance programs by seeking to allocate resources supporting investigations that further the understanding of the connection between environmental crime and environmental justice; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IACP calls on the governments of all nations to support efforts to promote environmental justice.