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**Statement of
Paul DePonte
Executive Director
National Crime Prevention Council
On the Release of
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2021**

“Choking off the vast international pipeline that fuels the global trafficking of drugs, counterfeit products, and even human lives is critical to Take A Bite Out Of Crime.

“Far from a victimless crime, the sale of fake merchandise provides financial capital to crooks and criminals around the globe. The internet and social media platforms often speed the sale of dangerous—sometimes lethal—products once they cross the U.S. border. The ICE annual report shows 14,530 pounds of fentanyl was seized last year, for example. Just one gram of fentanyl, the size of a typical sweetener packet, could kill 500 Americans. These efforts are helping save millions of lives by reducing the supply of dangerous products. The U.S. needs to increase these efforts, as well to boost public education about these and other hazards. Working with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the National Crime Prevention Council is educating consumers to ‘Go For Real’ with a multi-year public education campaign already equipping tens of millions of Americans with the tools they need to spot fakes. It is critical to shine a light on the pirateers peddling dangerous fake products to children and other unsuspecting consumers on the street and online.

“Public-private partnerships, including one with NCPC to stop fake vaping products, the ICE-led National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center seized a record-breaking \$822 million in fake, often dangerous, products from the hands of criminals.”

About NCPC:

The nonprofit National Crime Prevention Council, along with McGruff the Crime Dog®, have helped generations of Americans Take A Bite Out Of Crime®. International trafficking and the sale of counterfeit goods are areas of focus. In addition to the [Go For Real Campaign](#), NCPC works with the IPR Center on a public-private partnership [promoting public health and safety](#). The organization is committed to working with families who have lost loved ones through lethal fentanyl poisoning to prevent this tragedy from taking more lives. This Spring, with the Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, a new effort to reduce violent crime will be launched. Please visit www.ncpc.org for more information.