



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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December 17, 2021

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Executive Director and

General Counsel

Hon. Eric Adams

Mayor-Elect

City Hall Park

New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor-Elect Adams,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), which represents more than 1,000 police units and associations and 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country, including the Troopers of the New Jersey State Police.

We are dismayed with the choice of location at which you announced Nassau County Chief of Detectives Keechant Sewell will be the next Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (NYPD). The mural prominent in the background of the news conference featured, amongst others, a painting of Joanne Chesimard (a.k.a. Assata Shakur), a convicted murderer and cop-killer.

Chesimard is the only woman on the FBI's most wanted terrorist list for her role in the cold-blooded killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in 1973. She later escaped from prison and fled to Cuba, where she remains to this day with a \$2 million bounty for her return. As a retired NYPD Captain and the next Mayor of New York City, we are disappointed that you would choose a location that honors a cop-killer for this historic announcement. Her depiction as a hero on the mural is an affront to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities as law enforcement officers – above all to the family and friends of police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As the mayor-elect of our nation's largest city, the officers who serve the City of New York and the broader law enforcement community count on you to stand up for and support the men and women who risk their lives every day to ensure our neighborhoods and communities are safe. You cannot do so unless you repudiate everything for which Chesimard stands. There is no way to delink Chesimard from the role she played in the execution-style killing of Trooper Foerster or the fact that she is now a wanted fugitive living free in Cuba while no justice has been brought to Trooper Foerster's family for his murder.

We wish you every success as Mayor and believe you will support the law enforcement community of New York City and get the City back on track. However, honoring Chesimard defeats these goals. An apology should be given to law enforcement officers everywhere, to the members of the New Jersey State Police and, most of all, to the family of Trooper Werner Foerster.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale  
President