

# **AN OPEN LETTER FROM NAPO TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

On behalf of the more than 240,000 officers from every walk of life represented by the National Association of Police Organizations, and the millions of citizens whom we serve, we seek peace on our streets, we strive for justice, and we remember the individual men and women called to serve and protect. To the alarming number of elected officials who sometimes seem unable or unwilling to publicly support their police, we say: The time for standing by and offering weak platitudes about peaceful protest has passed.

In cities across our country, in Baltimore, in Washington, in New York, in Philadelphia, in Chicago, in Los Angeles, in Boston, and everywhere in between, American police officers are, quite literally, bleeding to death. In the entirely foreseeable fulfillment of well publicized threats, killers are stalking and attacking our officers. They are cloaking themselves in the rhetoric of protest and “justice”. But their very public actions are those of violence and bloodshed. American officers are not just “putting their lives on the line,” they are dying. These are no peaceful protests and they never were. Both “Burn this bitch down!” and “What do we want? Dead cops!” have proved to be open notices of exactly what these sociopaths were going to do.

These lawless mobs are reading the inaction of clueless mayors and pandering politicians as a tacit concession that their goals have merit. They hear civil rights “leaders” words of sympathy for violent protestors as conferring legitimacy upon their cause. This has allowed an atmosphere of hatred against police officers to grow, to fester and to finally burst forth in murderous gunfire, ambush attacks and vehicular run-downs of officers across our nation.

To the men and women out on the front lines, our brother and sister officers, please know that we unfailingly support you, we care about what you are facing, we are outraged at the attacks and wounds you suffer, and the lack of backup from those officials who owe you so much. Know that we will never back down. We have your back in this fight. We will insist on the great truths of this noble profession, on the integrity, sacrifice, and raw courage it takes to do this job. And most of all, we will continue to stand up to anyone who seeks to tear down the legitimate rights of officers, whether in our nation’s capital or anywhere else. The men and women who are quite literally bleeding for their communities don’t just deserve the same constitutional and legal rights as every other American, they have EARNED them!

Respectfully, the men and women of the National Association of Police Organizations.