



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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Executive Director and  
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January 12, 2017

The Honorable Stephen T. Ayers  
Architect of the Capitol  
SB-15, United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Ayers:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to request an official review of the artwork entitled "Untitled #1", the graphic anti-police painting that is currently displayed in the U.S. Capitol as the winner of the 2016 Congressional Art Competition for Missouri's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

At a time when police and community relations are strained and officers are being killed by ambush at the highest rate in two decades, it is utterly irresponsible to allow such hate speech to be hung in the U.S. Capitol. The painting is beyond offensive; it is reprehensible. It is such anti-police rhetoric and imagery that inspired the murder five Dallas police officers and three Baton Rouge officers in July and more recently the ambush-style killings of two officers in Des Moines and a San Antonio detective in November.

NAPO strongly believes that "Untitled #1" violates the Congressional Art Competition 2016 Rules and Regulations, which states that the Art Competition is not for artwork that is "potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the U.S. Capitol." The Rules and Regulations go on to specifically state that "*exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed.*"

This painting promotes the falsehood that all police are racist and aiming to use force against African Americans and further endangers the officers on the street, officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. If "Untitled #1" does not portray a "contemporary political controversy" that is "sensationalistic" and "gruesome in nature", those words and phrases no longer have meaning.

While NAPO supports an individual's right to free speech, we do not support speech that condemns an entire community for the acts of a few. NAPO calls on you to review "Untitled #1" and immediately take down the painting as it is in violation of the Rules and Regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McHale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael McHale  
President

Cc: House Office Building Commission