



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

April 22, 2021

NAPO Statement on LeBron James' Ignorant and Murderous Tweet Targeting Columbus Police Officer

LeBron James might want to listen to his own advice rather than threatening the murder of a Columbus, Ohio police officer in a tweet. What did James say [regarding Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey's tweet supporting Hong Kong protesters](#) on Twitter in 2019? We believe it was “[w]hen you’re misinformed or you’re not educated about something, and I’m just talking about the tweet itself, you never know the ramifications that can happen.”

We’ll continue to use James’ own words to rebuke him for his dangerous and ignorant tweet targeting the officer: “So many people could have been harmed – not only financially, but physically, emotionally, spiritually. Just be careful about what we tweet, what we say and what we do. Yes, we do have freedom of speech, but there can be a lot of negative that comes with that, too.”

“For me personally,” James continued, “When I speak on something, I speak about something I’m very knowledgeable about.” Yeah, right.

James tweeted a picture of the officer with the words “YOU’RE NEXT” and an image of an hour glass with the officer’s time running out. Make no mistake about it, if the police officer did not take action to save another young woman’s life, James would likely be the first person out there claiming that racist police just stood idly by while another Black child was murdered.

Now, instead of showing even the slightest recognition that officers are sometimes put into impossible situations, he threatens the murder of the officer who was forced to act to save another person’s life.

Ignorance, even in a billionaire like James, is never pretty. But James’ display of profound ignorance coupled with a threat to murderous violence is disgusting, indeed.

###

Founded in 1978, NAPO represents more than 1,000 police units and associations and 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the United States who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control, law enforcement, and the rights of all.