



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501  
(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515  
[www.napo.org](http://www.napo.org) ~ Email: [info@napo.org](mailto:info@napo.org)

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

MICHAEL McHALE

**President**

*Florida Police Benevolent  
Association*

CHRIS COLLINS

**Vice President**

*North Las Vegas Police Officers  
Association*

JOHN A. FLYNN

**Recording Secretary**

*Patrolmen's Benevolent  
Association of New York City*

SEAN M. SMOOT

**Treasurer**

*Police Benevolent & Protective  
Association of Illinois*

TODD HARRISON

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

*Combined Law Enforcement  
Associations of Texas*

MARC KOVAR

**Executive Secretary**

*New Jersey State Policemen's  
Benevolent Association*

RICHARD WEILER

**Parliamentarian**

*Police Officers Labor Council  
of Michigan*

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

**Executive Director and**

**General Counsel**

June 16, 2015

John Martin  
Chairman & CEO  
Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.  
Turner Headquarters  
One CNN Center  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Martin:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I write to you to express outrage and serious concern with a statement made by CNN anchor Fredricka Whitfield on June 13, 2015. During her program, Ms. Whitfield referred to a gunman who attempted to murder police officers, as "courageous and brave." This outrageous and irresponsible statement not only disrespects law enforcement officers, but also endangers the lives of officers. Such statements, which continue to be made by your anchors, vilify law enforcement officers and lead to increased tension in communities across the nation.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States. 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.

On June 13, 2015, a gunman, armed with semiautomatic weapons and incendiary devices, attempted to kill police officers by attacking Dallas Police Department headquarters. As members of the Dallas Police Department worked to ensure that this gunman did not inflict any additional harm to the community, Ms. Whitfield used her forum to state: "It was very courageous and brave, if not crazy as well, to open fire on the police headquarters, and now you have this scene, this standoff."

Ms. Whitfield's statement is appalling. Referring to a gunman, who tried to murder those who put their lives on the line each and every day to protect our communities, as a hero is not only offensive, but it has the potential to encourage others to attack police officers.

Our officers continue to expend every available effort to protect our nation's citizens, even as networks, like CNN, continue to mischaracterize these selfless and brave individuals.

The public relies on news stations, such as CNN, to report fair and accurate information. People turn to stations, like CNN, to get facts, not misinformation and inflammatory rhetoric. As officers continue to work to build relationships with the communities they serve, statements, such as those made by Ms. Whitfield, only lead to increased strife and a greater willingness to harm law enforcement officers.

NAPO demands a significant public apology from Ms. Whitfield to the Dallas Police Department and the entire law enforcement community. Until that apology is made, we will encourage our counterparts nationwide to endorse a boycott of CNN and its supporting advertisers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director