

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE Executive Director and General Counsel February 3, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) and the more than 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers we represent across the United States, I am writing regarding the 2016 anti-law enforcement posting on Facebook by Jalina Porter, now the deputy spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State.

The views Ms. Porter expressed in that 2016 Facebook post are greatly disappointing. Not only did she state that "U.S. cops" are a greater threat to our national security than Russian hackers or ISIS, but she also implied that the law enforcement profession is perpetuating a genocide against Black Americans. While Ms. Porter issued a statement on February 2 acknowledging that the language she used to express her feelings was not constructive, she did not apologize for the sentiment of the post.

As a private citizen, our Constitution affords her the right to hold and express these views. However, it is profoundly concerning to us that a spokesperson for our government has harbored such an openly hostile and defamatory view of police and we hope that those views are not perpetuated.

We understand many of our nation's communities have lost trust in law enforcement and we hope to work with your Administration in improving policing practices in this country. We want to move forward with improving our relationship with our communities and enhance their trust in our profession, but if such sentiments are held by the Administration, this will be difficult to do. The men and women of the law enforcement community put their lives on the line every day to serve and protect their communities and they deserve the support and respect of their government.

Mr. President, we appreciate your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to working with you to improve policing in our nation.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale

President