



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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The Honorable William Lacy Clay, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2428 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clay:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to condemn in the strongest possible terms the anti-police painting you have chosen to hang in a hallway in our nation's Capitol.

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 of you, a U.S. Congressman, 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.

By hanging this painting in the U.S. Capitol, you are supporting the falsehood that all police are racist and aiming to use force against African Americans. By promoting this opinion, you are further endangering officers on the street, officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

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 immediately take down the painting and the hatred it portrays for our nation's law enforcement community.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale
President