



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 ~ Email: info@napo.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS April 2, 2019

MICHAEL McHALE
President
Florida Police Benevolent
Association

Mr. Beto O'Rourke
c/o Beto for America
P.O. Box 3628
El Paso, Texas 79923

Dear Mr. O'Rourke:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), and the over 241,000 rank-and-file officers we represent across the country, I am writing to urge you to condemn the invocation of convicted murderer and cop-killer Joanne Chesimard at the April 1, 2019 We the People Summit you attended.

Joanne Chesimard is the only woman on the FBI's most wanted terrorist list for her role in the cold-blooded killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in 1973. The fact that she is being raised as leader to follow is an affront to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities as law enforcement officers – above all to the family and friends of police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As a presidential candidate, our nation's law enforcement community counts on you to stand up for and support the men and women who risk their lives every day to ensure our neighborhoods and communities are safe. You cannot do so unless you repudiate everything for which Joanne Chesimard stands. There is no way to delink Chesimard from the role she played in the execution-style killing of State Trooper Foerster or the fact that she is now a wanted fugitive living free in Cuba while no justice has been brought to Trooper Foerster's family for his murder.

The We the People Program is supposed to promote civic competence and responsibility. It is unacceptable to teach students – the future of our country – that violence and killing a law enforcement officer is a responsible way to affect change. You must condemn the invocation of Joanne Chesimard and everything she represents.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale
President

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary
Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer
Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

MARC KOVAR
Sergeant-at-Arms
New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Police
Protective League

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
Associate Members
Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian
Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel