



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

August 1, 2014

Hon. Steven M. Fulop
Mayor of Jersey City
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

Re: Death of Officer Melvin Santiago

Dear Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the more than 241,000 law enforcement officers across the United States represented by our Association, including more than 30,000 affiliated with the New Jersey Policemen's Benevolent Association and its locals, please allow us to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your public show of support and respect for the grieving family and coworkers of Officer Santiago. The very brazenness and senselessness of the assassination of this fine young officer stunned his comrades across the nation. Adding insult to an already grievous injury, unthinking admirers of the assassin took it upon themselves to memorialize him. Whether this was in fulfillment of the assassin's desire to "become famous" or was simply an ill-advised public expression of remorse we cannot say. But whatever the motivation, it was particularly cruel and vindictive in its manifestation.

How refreshing then, to have a mayor in an important city stand up and not only do the right thing, but stand up for what he did when asked about it by the media. By ordering the removal of this makeshift shrine, you not only restored some sense of decency and morality to the streets of Jersey City, but strengthened the convictions of the tens of thousands of decent citizens who understand that the loss of the life of a police officer is to be deplored and mourned, not glorified.

As members of the law enforcement profession, our officers understand the vital roles that mayors and police officers play in serving our citizens and keeping our cities safe. Thank you for publically supporting our officers in such a meaningful way and during such a trying time.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Nee
President

William J. Johnson
Executive Director