



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

March 6, 2023

NAPO Statement on Violent Attacks upon the Atlanta Police Training Facility

Alexandria, VA – The National Association of Police Organizations (“NAPO”), representing some 241,000 rank-and-file officers across the United States, condemns in the strongest possible terms the violent attacks upon the Atlanta, Georgia police training facility, and thanks the courageous officers and troopers risking their own safety in an effort to preserve peace and order.

On Sunday night, March 5, violent criminals armed with Molotov cocktails and using commercial-grade fireworks as anti-personnel explosives infiltrated and burned Atlanta’s new Public Safety Training Center. The Center, intended to provide state-of-the-art training for officers, EMTs and firefighters, suffered significant arson damage, and officers trying to protect the facility were attacked with rocks and bricks as well.

"What happened last night was not peaceful protest – it was violence. Plain and simple," Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr said in a statement Monday. NAPO joins our brother and sister officers in Georgia, and men and women of good will across the United States, in calling for the swift and effective prosecution of the domestic terrorists involved. “Those who violently attack our nation’s law enforcement officers attack our society itself. No one who would burn down a Center designed to help first responders do their job better can be taken seriously when they claim they did it for the sake of ‘justice.’” Said NAPO’s national president, Michael McHale. “Make no mistake, the efforts to violently destroy this Center will only serve to steady the resolve of citizens and officers alike to stand against anarchy and violence, and to support the rule of law, without which no community can prosper.”

###

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America’s law enforcement officers through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, and over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers.