



## **NATIONAL BLACK POLICE ASSOCIATION**

*To increase the awareness of the community, to be the conscience of the Criminal Justice System,  
and to enhance the quality of life in the African American Community*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

December 12, 2018

**The National Black Police Association  
Supports the Fight Against Racism and Discrimination by  
The United Black Police Officers Association  
And the Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association**

**[Dallas, TX]** The National Black Police Association (NBPA) is following closely, with concern, the recent claims of widespread discrimination, levied by the United Black Police Officers Association (UBPOA) and the Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association (HNLEA), against the Prince George's County Police Department in Maryland. Officers report repeated instances of racial bias and subsequent retaliation, and the overt disparate treatment of officers of color in the police department. These incidents highlight violations of procedural justice, which calls for fairness, impartiality, transparency, and providing an opportunity for officers of color to be heard.

Policing is once again at a crossroads in this country, and communities of color are rightfully demanding that their criminal justice needs be met. Because African-American and Latino officers live a duality—as police officers, as well as members of their own communities—they are in a unique position to be of service to both the communities of which they are most familiar, and the law enforcement departments for which they work. They should be seen and treated as valuable assets and a resource. Through and with them, we can bridge the ever-widening gap between law enforcement and communities of color.

It is unfortunate that legal action and a Department of Justice review is the result of this dire situation. We are, however, hopeful that during the pending investigations, the affected officers will find equity, regrettable circumstances will become opportunities for healing—not a debilitating repeat of history, and that the multiple stakeholders will emerge with their respect and human dignity intact. The expectation is that, during this time of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing, leadership in the Prince George's County Police Department will find 21<sup>st</sup> Century courage, to do what is right.

Truth and transparency are cornerstones of leadership in policing. The NBPA is committed to ensuring equity for the community, as we work to enhance trust and legitimacy in policing. We will continue to monitor this situation closely, to ensure the fair and equitable administration of justice.

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