

# Brothers Before Others Inc.

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## PRESS RELEASE

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Since being founded in 2014, the members of Brothers Before Others have been very mindful to not target a specific police department or law enforcement officer as it applies to misconduct by our standards. However, what we have seen from the day that George Floyd died up until this date has been nothing short of embarrassing and disappointing.

First let me be clear: regardless of his criminal past, George Floyd did not deserve to die in the manner that he did. Every reasonable adult watching that video, sworn or otherwise, came to that conclusion easily. In the hours and days following Mr. Floyd's death, nearly the entire country was on the same page and, even if we had never tolerated one single riot, we'd still be here looking at four former police officers facing murder charges.

The only people who know what was in the heads of those four officers that day are those four officers. While I am capable of recognizing that critical errors in judgment were made, I will not pretend that I know what was in those individuals' hearts and minds, nor should anyone else.

That being said, when I witnessed uniformed police officers marching in a political protest, I thought I had seen it all. Unless things have drastically changed and did so overnight, virtually every department in America has a general order relating to the need for police officers to be "apolitical", meaning that they are not allowed to show political bias while in uniform. In fact, during the 2016 election cycle, members of the San Antonio Police Department were suspended for that very infraction, being punished for wearing 'Make America Great Again' hats as they posed with then-candidate Donald Trump.

Then I saw some uniformed police officers kneeling in solidarity with the political protestors. Not only, again, is this making a political statement, this is putting yourself and your brothers and sisters in blue in a tactically unsafe position in the face of protests that had become violent at the drop of a hat in nearly every major city across the United States.

Then I witnessed a police officer use sick time at a time when no excused absences were being granted, in order to maximize staffing to cope with the on-going protests. The sick time was not the issue. The fact that he used that time to then march in a political protest while wearing portions of his duty uniform, including his tactical vest and shield, was the problem. It was, yet again, making a political statement

while shamelessly and flagrantly spitting in the face of his department and coworkers while he abused his time off.

Then I witnessed a police officer lay on the ground, simulating the position that George Floyd was in when he died, doing so in solidarity with a large protest that was going on out front of his police department. Yet again, a political statement and an ungodly unsafe position to put oneself in, tactically speaking.

Then I witnessed uniformed police officers washing the feet of political protestors. I think you get the message. See above.

After all of this, I again swore to myself that I had seen it all. Never in the history of ever did I ever think that I would witness such flagrant disrespect for the uniform and the customs and courtesies associated with wearing one, bearing in mind that these actions were not done by all, thus creating a divide amongst our own ranks.

My disappointment was capped off today by watching uniformed police officers saluting the casket of a criminal. Murdered or otherwise, George Floyd's criminal past and life choices DO come in to play in this regard. George Floyd spent a large portion of his adult life behind bars, most notably for putting a gun to the belly of a pregnant woman during a home invasion.

By doing so, these officers devalued every salute that has ever been rendered to the Flag of the United States, as a show of respect, in recognition of a life lost in service and in recognition of sacrifice.

In doing so, these officers disrespected every uniformed police officer or military personnel that earned that privilege through a life of service to their community and country.

These officers referenced above DO NOT speak for me, the members of our charity nor hundreds of thousands of others around the country. Their actions are both pandering and cowardly. The divide that now exists was created by their actions and NOT by other's lack of action.

You can empathize with the Floyd family. You can mourn for them. You can mourn with them. You can pray for them. You can pray with them. You can do all those things on your feet. You can do all those things in the silence of your heart. You can do all those things on your own time. When you choose to do those things in uniform, you purposely form the narrative that every police officer who HASN'T lost their discipline is now somehow biased or, worse, racist. You have embarrassed yourself and weakened the authority of the American police officer in ways that will not even be materialized for years to come.

On behalf of every other professional police officer, thank you for nothing.

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