



MASSACHUSETTS
COALITION OF POLICE

P.O. Box 768
Millbury, MA 01527

"The Only Union for Law Enforcement Officers"

AFL-CIO

August 10, 2019

Senator Elizabeth Warren
240 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Warren,

It is with great pain and dismay that I am compelled to write to you again, nearly a year after our last letter where I respectfully requested that you rethink the dangerous and dehumanizing statement that you made about law enforcement in New Orleans. Less than a year later (August 9, 2019) you decide to send out a post on Twitter that calls Officer Wilson of the Ferguson Police Department a murderer and paints the picture that Michael Brown was some innocent "unarmed" person who was shot six times for no reason. Most disturbing is your call to confront "police violence". Your current statement infers that police officers are some violent roving band of racist miscreants that are causing our society grievous harm.

The Department of Justice (under President Obama) found that there was no criminal intent on Officer Wilson's part. Therefore, you should stop referring to him as a murderer. As a law professor, you may remember that murder is the UNLAWFUL killing of another. As no law was broken, there is no murder. The report also explains the reasons for the six shots and their justification. The DOJ determined there to be no criminal intent and that the shots were a result of Michael Brown's actions. I would suggest a good read of the report would assist you in understanding the facts of this case.

Graham v. Connor 490 U.S. at 396-97 (1989), provides in part *"The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight."* Graham has been reviewed time and time again and still stands firm as the use of force standard under which law enforcement operates. *"Under Graham, we must avoid substituting our personal notions of proper police procedure for the instantaneous decision of the officer at the scene. We must never allow the theoretical, sanitized world of our imagination to replace the dangerous and*

Member

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complex world that policemen face every day." Smith, 954 F.2d at 347 (6th Cir. 1992).

I want to make this as clear as possible and every member of the Massachusetts Coalition of Police wants you to understand; your labeling of law enforcement as racist and violent is unacceptable and dangerous. Maybe I didn't deliver the message strong enough the last time we spoke. YOUR POLITICAL PANDERING FOR PRESIDENTIAL VOTES IS GETTING POLICE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS HURT AND KILLED. We have told you that if you have specific issues, that we would work with you to work towards repairing those issues. Your response is to continually make incorrect and inflammatory statements that are detrimental to society as a whole.

The Massachusetts Coalition of Police understands that there are issues that need to be worked on with our communities and we work very hard to address them on a daily basis, but when people in a powerful position like yours continue to make irresponsible and untrue statements for political purposes, it stifles that dialogue and perpetuates the problems. Your inflammatory rhetoric results in the erosion of relationships that members of law enforcement have developed within our communities. As I told you last time, your statements make it difficult for the public to trust law enforcement so we can all work together.

I ask you again Senator Warren, please consider the impact that your statements are having on not just the people who have sworn to protect you, but on society as a whole. I continue to offer any assistance that either I, or the many men and women who we represent can offer to help you understand law enforcement better. But I can no longer stand by and watch you systematically dismantle the relationships we have developed in our communities with these types of statements.

Sincerely,



Scott Hovsepian, President
Massachusetts Coalition of Police