



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Statement of Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations

RE: Fallen Officer; Police Officer Anthony Ferguson

Once again, we are mourning the murder of a police officer, shot to death while chasing a suspect.

Mr. Anthony Ferguson, Alamogordo, N.M. P.D., was shot in the face with a sawed-off shotgun July 16 and died the following day. It didn't need to happen. De La O should not have been walking the streets.

The killer, Dominic De La O, had numerous prior arrests, including pulling a gun on a police officer as recently as January 29th of this year. He had been released by a judge, over the objections of prosecutors, for those charges and had already missed his scheduled court date.

This is happening far too frequently. In numerous jurisdictions, the judicial system has become a revolving door for many. Offenders are being released back onto the streets, including those with gun related charges, before the arresting officers have completed their reports.

Shoplifting has become a lucrative career with little to no downside for thieves. We are seeing long established retailers closing their businesses due to the organized theft being carried out with impunity. Security guards are simply observing the theft. Some stores are putting chains and padlocks on inventory, inconveniencing most shoppers.

Until and unless those charged with crimes are held to answer, this is the new normal. Sadly, for the first time in my memory, it seems that, in many instances, **“crime pays”**.

May we forever remember the service and sacrifice of Police Officer Anthony Ferguson, Alamogordo, N.M. P.D.

END

NOTE:

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. More information is available at www.iupa.org.*