



## **International Union of Police Associations**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact: Dennis J. Slocumb**

**Phone: 1-800-247-4872**

**E-Mail: [iupa@iupa.org](mailto:iupa@iupa.org)**

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

Every single hour of every day, people call 911 to ask for help. Many are reasonable folks who are faced with something so outrageous and unimaginable they simply cannot handle it. Many of their lives are endangered. When they call, no matter what they report, we send police; often young men and women in their twenties.

These men and women are not just cops, but parents, sons and daughters, and spouses who have left the security of their homes to protect and serve complete strangers. Many of them are facing their own difficulties in their lives; sick children, fiscal challenges, lack of sleep, but put all of that aside to help – to resolve – that which cannot be resolved by those in need.

Almost every time they are successful. Their actions are usually recorded, sometimes incompletely – always without context. When they falter, they are in the headlines. They are sometimes abandoned, or worse, vilified, by those who called for them, by their leaders, and by some members of the media. The actions they took during adrenalin-filled moments will be under a microscope for days – too often by those who themselves have never been in such a situation. They may be disciplined for a mistake, terminated, or worse, prosecuted.

They see things that cannot be unseen. They take home memories they cannot erase, nor share with family members. They have to learn to cope. Some cannot. Some turn to alcohol or drugs. Many of them divorce. Far too often they take their own lives to escape what they have been through.

And many of us wonder why their ranks are becoming increasingly difficult to fill.

Just this week, two New York officers were attacked by a mob near Times Square. They were beaten and kicked. Suspects were arrested and immediately released without bail. It is time to vote for leaders that will support these brave men and women and allow them to protect their communities.

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](http://www.iupa.org). Follow us on Twitter at [IUPA34233](https://twitter.com/IUPA34233).