



## **International Union of Police Associations**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Statement of President Cabral Regarding Flying the Thin Blue Line Flag in Memory of Fallen Officer Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier**

It has been reported that “A town council in Connecticut voted against a motion Monday to fly the Thin Blue Line flag in honor of a Connecticut State Trooper, husband and father of two young boys, who was killed on duty. Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier died last week while performing a traffic stop on a state highway. A vehicle collided with Pelletier, his squad car and the vehicle he had pulled over before the trooper died from fatal injuries at the scene. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene but was later tracked down by police.”

Reporting continued, “Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont honored the fallen trooper by directing state flags to fly at half-mast. At a meeting of the Wethersfield Town Council, members weighed whether or not to fly a Thin Blue Line flag, ‘That flag was either created or at least became prevalent in direct response to the Black Lives Matter protests,’ Democratic Councilmember Emily Zambrello said. ‘It’s viewed as antagonistic even if you don’t see it that way and I don’t think that’s a good flag to fly, especially not without further discussion.’ Even more outrageous - The town council rejected a proposal to fly the flag citing the town's flag policy, which requires a request be made 30 days in advance.”

The decision of the town council is outrageous. If anything is “divisive” it is their behavior and the ludicrous justification given for it.

Office Pelletier did not have 30 days' notice of his death. His wife certainly had no notice that when she kissed her husband goodbye prior to his shift, she would soon be a widow, raising two sons who would only have a picture of him at Christmas this year.

These types of politicians divide our nation. They put their own biases ahead of any consideration of others. They must be removed. I hope the people of Wethersfield remember this day during the next election.

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.*

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