



BOSTON POLICE PATROLMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 3, 2020

Jessica Tang
President
Boston Teachers Union, AFT
180 Mt. Vernon Street
Dorchester, MA 02125

Re: Black Lives Matter at School Week

Dear Ms. Tang:

I am writing on behalf of the 1400 members of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association to protest the BTU's participation in and endorsement of Black Lives Matter at School Week. I strongly urge you to reconsider the BTU's decision to support Black Lives Matter, an anti-police organization whose activities have the effect of making my members less safe.

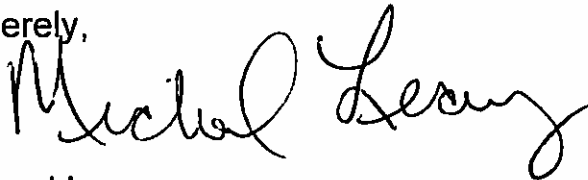
Policing has always been a dangerous profession, but groups like Black Lives Matter, by inaccurately demonizing police as racists who kill innocent people, have made policing more dangerous than ever before. Instead of examining the facts of specific shooting incidents, the Black Lives Matter movement oversimplifies and generalizes, leading its followers to distrust police and, in more and more cases, to do them harm.

The same irrational hatred that leads to more violence against police makes it more and more difficult to recruit new officers into the field and affects public support for improving the wages, benefits and working conditions of police officers. As a result, the police, their families, and the

public suffer. Even the "Week of Action National Demands" you posted on the BTU website includes the goal, "Fund Counselors Not Cops." While more counselors may be a good idea, the idea that spending less on public safety will make our communities better or safer is ridiculous. Imagine if the BPPA encouraged the public to "Fund Police Not Teachers" - you would be insulted too.

Vilifying those who serve the public as police officers only increases distrust and puts police and citizens at risk of increased violence from an emboldened group of angry anti-police individuals. Instead of joining Black Lives Matter in making police the enemy, the BTU should be supporting efforts that invest in all aspects of our communities - including public safety - and rebuilding trust between the police and the communities they serve instead of driving a wedge between them that is based on irrational fear and hatred.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Leary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Leary
President
Boston Police Patrolmen's Association