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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 8, 2016

## RESPONSE TO THE MURDERS OF DART AND DALLAS POLICE OFFICERS

Las Vegas, NV, July 8, 2016– The National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA) once again implores our elected officials, both locally and federally, to work with peace officers and the community to quell the increasing level of violence against peace officers. Our hearts, prayers and condolences go out to all our law enforcement brothers and sisters in Dallas, Texas who were killed, injured and still fighting for their lives.

It has become a common practice to sensationalize the most difficult decision an officer ever has to make, which is to use deadly force. The sanctity of life is our priority, yet almost instantly, a public trial, jury and judgment are occurring within minutes of a physical or deadly encounter with a police officer based upon the posting of a video or commentary alone.

Damning narratives are consistently being pushed out without gathering all of the accurate facts and circumstances in an incident. This not only unfairly depicts an unfolding situation but also creates divisiveness between police and the community we have sworn an oath to protect.

Yesterday in Dallas, the blatant, calculated murders of five officers has devastated law enforcement officers across the nation. These atrocities experienced by our uniformed officers during a peaceful protest continue to polarize all the brave men and women that still continue to don the uniform and carry on their tour of duty knowing that they are simply hated because they wear a uniform.

“As leaders we need to have our voices heard by taking a firm stance and vehemently oppose further violence against our country’s first line of defense!”

Since 1972, the National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA) has been dedicated toward lessening tensions between minorities and police. Tensions in neighborhoods can come from many sources, one being occasional mistakes made by police in the course of their duties. However solving these issues requires a dialogue between communities and police, not the demonization of the police by special interest groups, or the ruthless ambush style killings and shootings taking place all across our nation.

Although it can be said, these are isolated acts by a few deranged individuals, the continued press coverage radical groups are getting on the national media, combined with the lack of action from our elected officials speaking out against these types of shootings, only allows the crazed to believe they have a platform and audience to carry out their violence.

The NLPOA will not condone or ignore such acts of violence toward police. As an organization encompassed by a diversity of people, we also support the fair treatment of all community people; regardless of skin color, social status or religious affiliation. The NLPOA is committed to continue to build trust between peace officers and the community at-large. In this same vein, the NLPOA beseeches the community to respect those who protect their communities.

NLPOA – Honoring family, education, and community, through service and mentorship since 1972.

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