



FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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June 29, 2017

Officers of the Fort Worth Police Department,

We write today with the utmost respect for the men and women of the Fort Worth Police Department. We can no longer tolerate the inconsistent and disparate actions taken by the leadership of this great city, in particular the Chief of Police. It is daunting for the officers of this department to perform the difficult tasks put before them, risking life and limb, without the support, real or perceived, from our Chief of Police. It is unnerving to know you could be the next officer thrown under the bus for political expedience.

The Fort Worth Police Officers' Association Board of Directors have been advised that many officers have lost confidence in Chief Fitzgerald's ability to successfully lead the once great, Fort Worth Police Department. We are acutely aware of the significant decline in morale and we are fighting for this police department and this great city. We are aware of a growing desire within the ranks to hold a "Vote of No Confidence". However, we must urge against such measure. A "Vote of No Confidence" is an outdated tactic that only serves to further divide and diminish morale. It serves no political purpose and very rarely ends in the desired result. It places the elected officials in a precarious position as well. Having said that, the Board of Directors will comply with the will of the membership if that is the direction you wish to go.

The pathway forward is to uncover and expose the truth and all the conflicts of interest that currently exist. It is our mission to ensure that the officers of this department are aware of the facts. The truth will set us free.

We are beyond disappointed in the inconsistent discipline and political meddling in internal investigations under this administration. From the mishandling of the Officer Martin investigation to the Indefinite Suspension of Officer Courtney Johnson; the political intervention in the body camera leak investigation; to the unorthodox delays in creating promotional lists; where does this end?

We believe the firing of Officer Johnson was politically motivated and the goal was to appease certain political groups in the aftermath of the Officer Martin appeal hearing. The delay in posting the Sergeant's promotional test was likely motivated by a desire to not deal with Officer Martin's promotion. The intentional delay of the Civil Service Commission hearing to rule on Captain Pridgen's demotion appears to be politically motivated to seal the results of his investigation and allow him to retire as a Captain. Clearly, we are not focused on a singular event, but the culmination of a multitude of poor decisions that have completely eroded confidence.

The Officer Martin appeal hearing revealed numerous inconsistencies in sworn testimony that we intend on addressing soon. The contradictory and inconsistent testimony of Chief Fitzgerald and Captain Keyes gives us great concern and we will expose the truth as soon as our probe is complete.

In closing, we are deeply concerned with the direction of our police department and will work tirelessly to expose the truth. While we navigate this treacherous road, we are confident in your dedication to duty and the oath we all took to protect and serve this great city before all else. Remember that you are your brother's keeper and if we are not watching each other's back, no one else will. Regardless of internal issues, we are privileged to serve the citizens of Fort Worth who have consistently provided tremendous support to our officers. We will continue to honorably serve our citizens to the utmost of our ability.

The next FWPOA membership meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 12:00pm & 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you in attendance.

Fraternally,

Fort Worth Police Officers' Association Board of Directors

AFFILIATED WITH COMBINED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS