



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501
(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515
www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

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July 12, 2016

Ms. Mi-Ai Parrish
President & Publisher
Republic Media
200 East Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ 85004

RE: July 9, 2016 Steve Benson Cartoon, "More Black deaths by police"

Dear Ms. Parrish,

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our serious concerns with the Steve Benson cartoon accompanying his July 9, 2016 opinion piece entitled "More Black deaths by police" and our disgust that the Arizona Republic would publish such an anti-police cartoon.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

The cartoon depicts a white police officer pulling over an African American motorist with the officer calling in the stop stating "Making a traffic stop. Send me a body bag". This cartoon is offensive and anti-police. By publishing this cartoon, the Arizona Republic is supporting the falsehood that all police are racist and aiming to use force against African Americans. By promoting this opinion, you are further endangering officers on the street, officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. The Dallas shooter was inspired by such anti-police rhetoric.

While NAPO supports an individual's right to free speech, we do not support speech that condemns an entire community for the acts of a few. You should be ashamed of publishing Mr. Benson's cartoon and the hate that it endorses.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

Cc: Ken Crane, President, Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, Inc.