



National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THERE CAN BE NO CONFIDENCE IN A LEADER WHO ONLY SEEKS RETRIBUTION

National Black Law Enforcement Group Stands By Members of The Ethical Society of Police In St. Louis County

With the recent arbitrary reassignment of Officer Shanette Hall of the St. Louis County Police Department, a total of three (3) members of the executive staff of the Ethical Society of Police, an organization dedicated to addressing racial discrimination and bias in both the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and the St. Louis County Police Department, have fallen prey to the retaliatory whims of Colonel Mary Barton, Chief of Police in St. Louis County Police Department.

This now makes four (4) members of the Ethical Society of Police who have suffered retaliatory action or have filed litigation against Chief Barton and her agency. Consequently, one must now wonder about the attitude and perception that agency administrators, command and supervisory staff have towards the citizens of color whom they have allegedly sworn to "Protect and Serve," as they seem to have little or no positive attitudes or perceptions of the officers of color whom they employ.

Chief Barton's blatant statement that "There is no systemic racism within the department" must be recognized for the falsehood that it most certainly is, particularly in light of the recently released Teneo Risk Advisory Report which determined the existence of a serious racial divide within the agency.

"Chief Barton has shown her willingness and specific desires to discriminate against any Black officer who speaks out against the racially divisive atmosphere that she has allowed to grow and permeate her agency and as such deserves no trust or confidence from those she has been hired to lead," stated Lieut. Charles P. Wilson, National Chairman of the **National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, Inc.**

As a chapter member of **NABLEO**, we support and stand in solidarity with Officer Shanette Hall and others from the Ethical Society of Police in their vote of "No Confidence" of the administration and leadership of Chief Mary Barton of the St. Louis County Police Department. When the leadership of an agency shows a total and complete lack of administrative action, a continuing failure to adequately address issues specific to Black members of the Department and community, resulting in rampant episodes of racism throughout the agency, it is clear that there is an obvious level of administrative retaliation and indifference to resolving a known racially biased atmosphere.