



September 2, 2020

The Fraternal Order of Police Should Fight for Our Communities

[According to a 2017 report](#) by the United States Department of Justice, the police department in Chicago “engages in a pattern or practice of using force that is in violation of the Constitution,” where “officers’ force practices unnecessarily endanger themselves,” “a pattern...[which] results from systemic deficiencies in training and accountability.”

I believe that the Chicago Police Union, known as the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), can learn from teachers and the Chicago Teacher’s Union (CTU). The CTU knows that fighting for better work conditions for teachers makes a better learning environment for students. The CTU should continue to fight for better schools and sports and arts programs in Chicago to help strengthen our communities to prevent violence and drug use.

Likewise, the police and the FOP should fight for better work conditions for its men and women in blue. The FOP should fight for better training and accountability so the professional practices of their officers do not place officers in danger. The FOP should fight for mental/behavioral health support for the communities which they serve and protect. The FOP should step up the fight to stop the flow of illegal guns and drugs into Chicago, both of which provoke so much crime and also endanger the lives of our police. The FOP does more harm to its members by fighting to keep things the same rather than fighting to improve the communities they are sworn to serve and protect. The fact is that the great hope for improving the relationship between police and community residents is to make it safer for both our law enforcement and our communities.

If the FOP wants to show that it is more than a fraternity of brothers and sisters who can do no wrong, as recently explored in the August 25, 2020, [Vanity Fair](#) article, “[Blue Bloods: America’s Brotherhood of Police Officers](#)”, by Eve L. Ewing, it should fight for both their members and their communities. When all communities do better, our police also do better.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
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