



Rochester Police Locust Club, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE **October 9, 2009**

The Protest March and the aftermath of that march which occurred two days ago have caused this Union to have great concern with the many inaccuracies and misconceptions that are being voiced both in the media and in City Council committee meetings.

The facts of what has occurred speak for themselves. This group of young protestors didn't even take the time to research what their rights or requirements were. They simply proceeded forward in a reckless fashion that could have resulted in serious injury or death either by their direct or indirect actions.

Their failure to provide advance notice of their march resulted in our city neighborhoods being left vulnerable and unprotected when police and fire services were disrupted.

This group's failure to respond to the lawful requests of our Officers placed these Officers and other innocent bystanders in harms way. The group's continued shouts of "take the streets" was a clear voice of what their intended actions were.

This Union's beliefs and goals are to insure equality and justice for all. We believe that this group's actions demonstrate that they are ignorant to the teachings of such leaders of peaceful civil disobedience such as Martin Luther King. I would question if any of these individuals are even aware of his teachings and where he led the march that ultimately led to his assassination or why he was in the city of Memphis to protest the rights of sanitation workers who were not allowed to organize or to voice their concerns on the dangers of their work.

We are sympathetic to this group's rally to end the war in Afghanistan; we applaud the fact that they are not apathetic to issues such as that. But to endanger the lives of our Police Officers or the lives of our citizens by inappropriate actions is not justified.

Union of Professional Police Officers
Member of Monroe County Police Benevolent Association, Upstate New York PBA
and National Association of Police Organizations, Inc.

Press Conference
October 9, 2009

Our Police Officers responded professionally and appropriately. Some are young but they are well trained and experienced, despite what some may say. They responded to a situation that had many unknowns and met with a group that failed to comply. Actions led to arrests that were carried out correctly and without excessive force.

We are disappointed with Councilwoman Conklin's statements that the video shows our officers in a less than favorable way. Perhaps the next time there is a call to stop a large, out-of-control group, Councilwoman Conklin could respond and step in front of the group vastly outnumbered and reason with them to comply with her verbal requests.

An investigation needs to commence but it should not be to investigate the Police Officers who did their job in a professional manner with disregard for their own personal safety.

Michael D. Mazzeo
President
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