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STATEMENT OF FOP NATIONAL PRESIDENT PATRICK YOES IN SUPPORT OF DALLAS FOP PRESIDENT AFTER FALSE ACCUSATIONS BY ADA

I was outraged to learn that Dallas Assistant District Attorney Jason Hermus deliberately and maliciously attacked the character of Mike Mata, the President of the Dallas FOP Lodge, in the course of prosecuting Officer Amber Guyger. It was unnecessary, it was wrong and it was so grossly irresponsible that I believe it constitutes prosecutorial misconduct.

Mike Mata responded to the scene, not as an officer of the Dallas Police Department, but as the representative of the Dallas Police Association—the union to which Officer Guyger belongs. When she telephoned her attorney, President Mata requested that all recording devices be turned off. Anyone who has seen an episode of TV's *Law and Order* knows that conversations between a client and her attorney are privileged communications. As her union representative, President Mata would have been negligent had he not made that request. If the accused were not a police officer, there would be no question that recording devices should be deactivated while a client and her attorney communicate.

The false and reckless accusations made by the Assistant District Attorney, not only smears the character of a law enforcement officer of 25 years, but it undermines the public's trust in the Dallas Police Department.

He should be ashamed of himself, and he should apologize for his blatant misconduct.