



**GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

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STEVE YOUNG
PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

23 July 2002

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Ashcroft

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to request that the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation launch an immediate inquiry into comments made by Sean Baker, an official with the Oklahoma chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which promoted violence against police officers. In light of the tragedies of 11 September, this is a matter of the utmost importance to the rank and file law enforcement officers of our organization and our nation.

During a television interview earlier this month, Baker reportedly said that "It's going to take some flags being passed to some officer's wives and the city paying some death benefits on officers before they get the message," and that "the community is sick and tired of this type of garbage going on...we're just not going to deal with that any more." For your information and review, I have enclosed several news articles from the Oklahoma City press on this issue. Several hours after Baker's comments, an unknown assailant fired numerous gunshots at police officer Eric Farmer who was on a routine patrol, striking his cruiser in the rear, side and top. Thankfully, Officer Farmer and his canine partner escaped without injury.

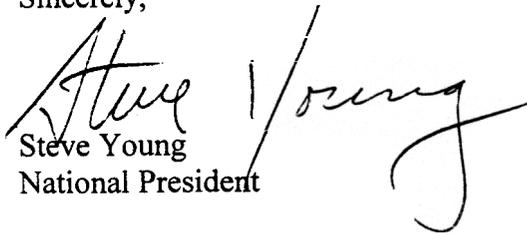
Baker's statement was made in response to a videotaped arrest of a suspect who was eventually charged with assault and battery of a police officer, destroying evidence, possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest. The videotape showed two Oklahoma City police officers struggling with the suspect who was not complying with their instructions, and it is clear that the officers were following standard procedure and the police use of force continuum.

Regardless of the circumstances which led to Baker's comments, there is never a justifiable reason to inflame or inspire others to commit acts of terrorism against our nation's law enforcement officers. I am sickened beyond expression at Baker's remarks in response to this incident and his apparent call for the assassination of police officers.

Therefore, I strongly believe that a complete and thorough investigation by the Department into his actions is warranted.

On behalf of the more than 300,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I again urge the Department to move aggressively to investigate the actions of Sean Baker before further violence befalls the brave men and women of the Oklahoma law enforcement community. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Executive Director Jim Pasco, through our Washington office if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,


Steve Young
National President

CC: Marty Stupka, President, Oklahoma City Lodge #123

Attachments