



January 23, 2023

The National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE) joins other police associations and agencies as we express our condolences to the family and friends of Tyre Nichols on his senseless death at the hands of five law enforcement officers.

A mother should not have to bury her son; no one should lose a family member to police violence.

What we all witnessed in the disturbing video footage does not resemble actions that any police officer should ever take. While we can point to failure to follow policies, the officers failed to use good judgement. They failed to demonstrate care and compassion: their actions were lawless. Their behavior was unacceptable on all levels. The role of an officer is to intervene when violence occurs, not be the hands that perpetuate violence.

At this time, the reason for the traffic stop is not clear. The claims of reckless driving are unsubstantiated. Whatever the reason for the stop has no bearing on the treatment. There is not any reason that can be used to justify the actions of the officers.

NAWLEE commends the swift response of Chief C.J. Davis as she sought to quickly and transparently hold the offending officers accountable. Through her actions, we need to remember that the vast majority of officers are honorable and uphold the law as they serve their communities.

However, as a profession, law enforcement needs to understand how an elite unit designed to reduce violence turned to violence themselves. What happened in Memphis damages the image of police officers globally and erodes community trust.

It is unacceptable and we must work to ensure this never happens again.

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