

July 28th, 2020

Earlier today, a Grand Jury indicted two Anchorage Police Department officers on felony charges. It is important to remember that neither officer has been found guilty of violating any laws. It is also important to remember that Officer Aaron Pettus and Officer Levi Stout are fathers, sons, friends, and community members. They have dedicated years of their lives serving Anchorage's citizens. Neither are perfect; they are human after all. But neither are felons.

Unfortunately, it appears these officers have been caught in the crosswinds of an incredibly divided nation and a politicized criminal justice system. When politics are injected into the criminal justice system, justice is lost.

The APDEA supports our two officers. Tomorrow Aaron and Levi will stop receiving paychecks from the Municipality of Anchorage and will face a long, difficult road in proving their innocence.

I ask all of our citizens and members to be patient while this process unfolds. Wait for all the facts before passing judgment on two dedicated public servants. We trust in the criminal justice system, especially when the system fairly and objectively applies the rule of law. Once the full picture is revealed, once we learn of the officers' true intentions, I am convinced that justice will prevail, and the officers will be exonerated of all charges.

As always, we stand together with our officers and the citizens of Anchorage. We strive to serve the community in the most professional and compassionate manner possible.

To the citizens of Anchorage: please know that the 580 members of the APDEA will continue to protect and serve our community.

To the officers and first responders: please know the APDEA is working tirelessly to assist Aaron and Levi in their defense. I ask nothing more of you than to go to work and serve our community. Be safe. Be professional. Continue to serve with integrity.

Thanks,



Jeremy

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