

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FLEOA OPPOSES NFL'S HYPOCRISY IN ALLOWING KAEPERNICK TO DISPLAY OFFENSIVE ANTI-LAW ENFORCEMENT ATTIRE

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) threw the flag on the National Football League (NFL) for allowing San Francisco 49ers' quarterback Colin Kaepernick to wear anti-law enforcement socks while previously prohibiting Dallas Cowboy players from displaying support for fallen police heroes.

Previously, FLEOA responded to the NFL's questionable judgment in prohibiting Dallas Cowboy players from wearing the "Arm-in-Arm" decal on their helmets in memory of the five police officers assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Now, FLEOA is requesting NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell reconsider his ban, particularly since exceptions have been granted or passively allowed on other occasions, including the more recent offensive display made by Kaepernick with his demeaning socks. Unfortunately, the NFL has not responded to FLEOA's concerns.

Most recently, Kaepernick's decision to wear socks mocking police officers during a practice has sparked disappointment and anger within the law enforcement community and among FLEOA members. FLEOA takes strong exception to Kaepernick's claim that he wore the socks because of rogue officers holding positions in police departments.

In response to the NFL's apparent disregard for the concerns of law enforcement and its passive acceptance of Kaepernick's lame cry for attention, FLEOA National President Nathan Catura issued the following statement:

"I held back my opinion when Colin Kaepernick refused to stand for the national anthem. I didn't want to devote more attention to what I believed to be an ill-conceived demonstration of contempt for an honored NFL tradition.

"This singing of the national anthem is cherished by all Americans, young and the old, soldier and civilian, and especially by law enforcement officers. There is nothing more touching than

seeing all the men and women in uniform standing at attention at sporting events when the anthem is sung. This is one of the few times all Americans band together in respect for our country's history and unwavering commitment to the freedoms it continues to provide all citizens.

“I want to go on record that all of our members and all of law enforcement will remember how the NFL looked the other way when players, through gestures, attire, and comments insulted the fine men and women who devote their lives to protecting our citizens. Furthermore, I question Commissioner Goodell's judgment in squashing the Dallas player's first amendment right to express their support for our fallen heroes, while allowing Kaepernick unlimited means for spouting his venomous anti-law enforcement gibberish.

“I would also like to urge the NFL to recognize the teams and players that show respect for the law enforcement officers who protect their communities and especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Additionally, FLEOA maintains that sanctioning those who exploit their position for divisive behavior would be appropriate.”

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The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (www.fleoa.org) is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association that exclusively represents over 26,000 active and retired federal law enforcement officers from over 65 Agencies.