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Patrick J. Lynch:
President
Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
125 Broad Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10004-2400

Dear Mr. Lynch:

I write to ask you to apologize to Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, your membership and the people of this city for the divisive, unfair petition that is currently hosted on the website of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA).

This petition, titled "Don't Insult My Sacrifice," which urges police officers to preemptively disinvite Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito to their prospective funerals, has crossed a line and is unhealthy to the continuing dialogue between police, elected officials and the public at large. This rhetoric, demanding that Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito stay away from the funerals of fallen police officers—heroes killed in the line of duty—is both beyond the limits of reasonable discourse and, frankly, embarrassing.

To use the remarks of the mayor and speaker, who have urged the city to heal in the wake of a nationwide crisis of confidence in our law enforcement and legal systems while also praising the hard work and sacrifice of the vast majority of police officers, to drive an imaginary wedge between the leadership of this city and your membership is offensive to all New Yorkers.

Mayor de Blasio represents all New Yorkers at these funerals, and Speaker Mark-Viverito represents not only the membership of the City Council but our City's Latino community, as well. To ask the families of fallen police officers to deny our representatives admission to future funerals in order to score political points is just wrong.

This hyperbole is unhelpful, and has the considerable potential to further divide the people of this city from its police force at a time when we should be working to strengthen police-community relations. You, Mr. Lynch, owe the mayor, the speaker, your membership and the people of this city an apology for your divisive, irresponsible remarks and actions.

Sincerely,

Ruben Diaz Jr.