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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

DC Police Union Responds to Conviction and Sentencing of Officer Amidst Politically Motivated Prosecution

(Washington, D.C.) -- The DC Police Union is deeply disheartened and troubled by the recent conviction and sentencing of Officer Sutton, a dedicated law enforcement professional who has served our community with integrity and commitment. The conviction, which resulted from a politically motivated prosecution, is a grave miscarriage of justice.

Officer Sutton was convicted on charges of murder despite clear evidence that he did not use any force and was merely performing his duty to apprehend a fleeing suspect, at the direction of an MPD management official. This tragic incident was the result of a complex and challenging situation that unfolded rapidly, but the actions taken by Officer Sutton were within the bounds of his training and professional responsibilities.

The prosecution's approach was tainted by the anti-police rhetoric that surged in 2020, which has increasingly influenced legal proceedings and public opinion against officers. DC Police Union Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, *"It is apparent that the case against Officer Sutton was driven more by political motivations and public pressure than by an impartial examination of the facts."*

The conviction and sentence of Officer Sutton reflects a broader trend of punitive measures against law enforcement officers that do not align with the principles of fairness and justice. Officer Sutton acted in line with his duty to protect and serve, and it is deeply concerning that he has been subjected to such a severe and disproportionate penalty.

Our Union stands firmly with Officer Sutton and his family during this distressing time. We are committed to advocating for a just review of this case and ensuring that future prosecutions of law enforcement professionals are grounded in fairness rather than influenced by political agendas.

We call on the community, media, and legal system to recognize the inherent challenges faced by officers in the line of duty and to resist allowing political sentiments to overshadow the pursuit of true justice. The brave men and women who serve our community deserve to be judged by the facts, not by the shifting tides of public opinion.

We will continue to support Officer Sutton in every way possible, including the appeal of this decision, and urge all stakeholders to join us in seeking a just resolution to this matter.