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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

DC Police Union Denounces D.C. Auditor's Biased and Fraudulent Report on Karon Hylton-Brown Case

Washington, D.C. – The DC Police Union issues a scathing rebuke of the Office of the D.C. Auditor's latest report, released today, July 23, 2025, titled "Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Use of Deadly Force: The Karon Hylton-Brown Case." This report, authored by the Bromwich Group and Steptoe LLP under the direction of D.C. Auditor Kathleen Patterson, is a politically motivated, baseless attack on the integrity of MPD officers and the law enforcement profession. It perpetuates a pattern of anti-police bias from Patterson's office, further eroding public trust and officer morale in a city grappling with rising crime.

Kathleen Patterson's tenure as D.C. Auditor has been marked by a consistent anti-police agenda, as evidenced by her office's 2022 report, "36 Fired MPD Officers Reinstated: Receive \$14 Million in Back Pay," which wrongfully disclosed confidential personnel records and defamed officers. This led to a class action lawsuit against Patterson and her team for invasion of privacy, defamation, and intentional interference with business interests, highlighting her reckless disregard for officers' rights and D.C. law. The current report continues this pattern, leveraging the tragic death of Karon Hylton-Brown to push a narrative that undermines MPD's professionalism and fairness.

The report's assertion that the prosecution of Officer Sutton was handled "in anything other than a professional and apolitical manner by career prosecutors and investigators" is categorically false and a deliberate misrepresentation. The prosecution of Sutton and Zabavsky was marred by political pressure and procedural irregularities from the outset. The U.S. Attorney's Office, influenced by public outcry and political agendas, pursued charges despite weak evidence, as later evidenced by the presidential pardons. **This was not a prosecution driven by impartiality but one shaped by external pressures, undermining the integrity of career prosecutors and investigators.**

The Auditor's recommendations, such as revising use-of-force policies and extending BWC audio buffers, are redundant or impractical, ignoring existing MPD reforms and the realities of policing. The report's call for harsher discipline and its failure to address the broader context of the Hylton-Brown case, such as community dynamics and the challenges of vehicle pursuits, demonstrates a clear intent to vilify officers rather than foster constructive solutions. By focusing on inflammatory rhetoric, Patterson's office exacerbates tensions between MPD and the community, jeopardizing officers who risk their lives daily to protect D.C. residents.

Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, "Kathleen Patterson's latest report is a shameful attempt to smear dedicated officers and sow division in our city. Her baseless claims and anti-police rhetoric have no place in a fair and objective audit process. We stand by our officers and demand an end to these politically driven attacks that jeopardize public safety and officer well-being." Pemberton went on to say, "It is long past time that the politically biased 'Office of the DC Auditor' be defunded. It is nothing more than a corrupt backstop for the D.C. Council to justify their radical political positions. Taxpayers should not be footing the bill for this type of partisan warfare."

The DC Police Union remains committed to defending the rights of its members and advocating for a policing environment that prioritizes fairness, transparency, and community safety. We call on D.C. residents to reject this divisive report and support the men and women of MPD who serve with honor.

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