



National Border Patrol Council

Press Release

"Protecting Those Who Protect Our Borders"

For Immediate Release – July 1, 2019

National Border Patrol Council (NBPC) Issues Statement on ProPublica News Article Regarding Facebook Group "I'm 10-15"

The National Border Patrol Council (NBPC) strongly condemns the inappropriate content posted by certain Border Patrol employees who are members of the Facebook group, "I'm 10-15." The content found in this group – whose membership is comprised of agents, retired employees, employees who no longer work for Border Patrol, and members of the public – is not representative of our employees and does a great disservice to all Border Patrol agents, the overwhelming majority of whom perform their duties honorably.

The NBPC has spoken out about the need to help those who are sick or injured and protect those who are in our custody and has worked with Congress to obtain the resources to do so. Representatives of the NBPC have spoken with agents in the workplace and at membership meetings about the need to be professional while on social media and that posting material that is inappropriate and unacceptable does great harm to the reputation of the Border Patrol.

In their article, ProPublica cited a handful of people who posted inappropriate content out of 9,500 members of the Facebook group, not all of whom are active duty Border Patrol agents. While one person posting inappropriate content is unacceptable and cannot be condoned, there is bound to be a subset of people whose values do not represent the entirety of those in the larger group. The men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol are by and large professional law enforcement officers who only want to do their job – to have a small minority of Facebook group members tarnish that image is unfortunate and embarrassing.

Whether one agrees with the politics of Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Rep. Escobar, they both must be treated with dignity and respect. Similarly, when Rep. Ocasio-Cortez refers to CBP facilities as concentration camps and our agents as Nazis – when neither could be further from the truth – she does nothing to improve the political discourse; however as stated above, the discourse must be handled professionally.

The conditions within CBP's stations are certainly not ideal for anyone, but the NBPC and CBP have been asking Congress for years to provide us with the resources to better do our job of arresting those who illegally cross the border and properly caring for those who are in our custody. There

are many instances, both told and untold, of agents going above and beyond to care for those in our custody, both humanely and compassionately. The unfortunate actions of a few do not define the actions of those who have chosen to serve with honor and integrity.

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