



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 11, 2016**

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### **Sigma Lambda Upsilon in Unity**

**New York, NY** – Our hearts go out to the men and women whose lives were unfairly uprooted through senseless acts of violence. In the last few days we have witnessed the tragic deaths of black men by law enforcement and watched, in horror, as men and women in uniform were targeted and killed at the conclusion of a peaceful demonstration. And while days have passed, the biting sting of reality remains. We mourn the tragic deaths of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, and of the five Dallas, Texas police officers -Brent Thompson, Patrick Zamarripa, Michael Krol, Michael Smith, and Lorne Ahren. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

As we try to process the senseless killings, we understand that these are not isolated incidents but a symptom of a larger problem of discrimination and oppression. The fear, anger, and indignation felt by our communities is clear. As an organization comprised of women from diverse national and ethnic backgrounds, we cannot and will not stay silent as our people are slaughtered simply because of the color of their skin. We proudly affirm that Black Lives Matter. We proudly affirm that our lives, the lives of our sons and daughters, the lives of our fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers, aunts and uncles, matter. We fully understand and greatly appreciate the dangerous, and often thankless, nature of police work. Indeed, many of our members have loved ones who serve honorably every day to protect our communities. To believe that Black lives matter in no way diminishes the respect that we have as a whole for our brothers and sisters in uniform- it is not either or.

There is a dire need for change. A need to address the significant number of fatal officer involved shootings that seemingly impacts the Black and Brown communities more than the majority. Now is a time to critically assess who we are as a nation and what we want to be.

As we reflect on all that transpired last week and brace ourselves for what may lay a head, let's do away with the "us-vs-them" mentality that has plagued our communities. As a nation, we can vigorously enforce the law while protecting the civil rights of the community being protected. It is critical that we continue to call upon our representatives to identify reforms, in earnest, that will address the issues of police brutality and gun violence and encourage increased community engagement and dialogue between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

**Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc.** was founded on December 1, 1987 at Binghamton University with the purpose of providing a voice and means for empowerment to women everywhere. The sorority provides sisterhood and support while also promoting academic excellence, service to the community, leadership and cultural enrichment to college-educated and professional women. Dedicated to uplifting traditionally marginalized communities, the sorority challenges the status quo through programming and civic engagement initiatives that are both exemplary and unique. For more information, visit: [www.sigmalambdaupsilon.org](http://www.sigmalambdaupsilon.org)

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