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Historic Black Law Enforcement Association responds to comments made by Miami Police Department Chief of Police in regards to the organization having misogynistic views.

On November 14, 2019, Miami Police Department's Chief of Police, Jorge Colina stated to news reporters, "It is even more disturbing that the MCPBA leadership has gone on record as saying African American women don't count. This kind of thinking is offensive, misogynistic, and has no place in modern law enforcement." While MCPBA agrees that misogyny has no place in any space, they believe this was just a tactic used by Chief Colina to deflect from the real issues at hand; police corruption and lack of leadership in his department.

The MCPBA has never been a misogynistic organization, and has on numerous occasions, highlighted and praised the success of black female officers being promoted to higher positions (see here: <https://bit.ly/37kix22>). He used the age-old tactic of divide and conquer when he erroneously suggested that the MCPBA asked him to promote more black male officers at the expense of black female officers. Not only was this statement false, but it was also an insult to our organization which has 300 members, with 60% of them being female.

One of those members being Assistant Chief of Police, Cherise Gause, who recently went on record for the Miami Police Department saying that MCPBA leadership is just "a small group of people who have a personal agenda." It's important to note that Assistant Chief Gause has served on the MCPBA executive board as Secretary from 2011-2015, under current MCPBA President, Sgt. Stanley Jean-Poix, and was a (dues-paying) member up until September 2019.

Current MCPBA member and former Assistant Chief, Anita Najiy says, "As a former Assistant Chief - the highest-ranking and first female to be promoted to this position in the history of the City of Miami's Police Department. I'm thankful it came at the recommendation of African-American males.

In 1982 when I became a Police Officer, I saw African-American men well represented in the City of Miami's Police Department because of a Federal Document known as "the 1977 Consent

Decree". If one peruses the contents and context of the "Consent Decree," one can see the footprints of past discriminatory practices. As a result of the "Consent Decree," Hispanics and women benefitted from the acts of African-American males. Since retiring in 2016, I see and hear the chickens have finally come home to roost.

The "Consent Decree" has laid dormant since August 2018; however, in its active state, the City of Miami's Police Department was well represented by both men and women at all levels. Today, while there are females well represented throughout the ranks, as well as on the Chief's staff and senior staff....where is this same representation for the African-American males? The purported statements being made regarding discrimination and racism within the walls and halls of the City of Miami's Police Department speaks truth to power.

The Department currently espouses representation of diversity. Representation of this much-touted diversity - fair yet equal - is what the Miami Community Police Benevolent Association is demanding. Having nine (9) staff members who are African-American with only three (3) who are men (none of whom hold the rank of Major or above) and then are relegated to traditional commands is not progress nor progressive. This is 2019, not 1960."

This fight is not either-or when it comes to women and men, this fight is both male and female and the MCPBA does not falter in that fight. This attempt at division on behalf of Chief Colina is a tactic that has been used to pit people of color against each other unsuccessfully since the founding of this nation. It failed then and it will certainly fail now. The MCPBA represents all of its members and only rises when standing together. The MCPBA is not a misogynistic organization and has never been. They have fought for equality, diversity, and inclusion for over 73 years within the City of Miami and the Miami Police Department.

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