



National Troopers Coalition

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

July 30, 2009

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Troopers Coalition, which represents more than 40,000 members. NTC members share a unique understanding of the danger faced by our fellow law enforcement officers across the United States, and we support the brave and often thankless work completed by police officers each and every day.

For that reason, our members have urged me to express their extreme dissatisfaction with your rush to judgment in the matter of the Henry Louis Gates arrest by Sgt. James Crowley of the Cambridge, Mass. Police Department. Your characterization of officers "acting stupidly," while admittedly not possessing all the facts of the case, suggests an anti-police bias and an underlying accusation of racial profiling.

In later remarks, you stated that you "didn't mean to malign" the Cambridge police officers involved in the case. However, that is incompatible with your statement that they "acted stupidly." Most Americans, and police officers in particular, are having difficulty discerning the subtle distinction between "stupidly" and malignity. It is not a matter of "calibration," as you described in your follow-up remarks - the meaning of your words was quite clear.

The matter of Mr. Gates notwithstanding, your haste to involve the office of the President of the United States into such a case at all, let alone while armed with only partial information, is a disservice to Americans on every side of the issue.

In our opinion, you owe the Cambridge Police Department generally, and Sgt. Crowley specifically, an apology; not an equivocation, and certainly not a "recalibration." We ask that as President of this great country, you summon the integrity and humility to be publicly forthcoming about your comments in this incident and then step back and allow the issue to be resolved by those actually involved.

Sincerely,

Michael Edes,
Chairman

Representing over 40,000 Troopers Nationwide