

MICHELS LAW FIRM PLLC

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June 18, 2020

Sent By Email

Sarah Koch
KochS@cbsnews.com

RE: Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis and Bob Kroll

Dear Ms. Koch:

I represent the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis (POFM). Your email regarding questions for the Federation and its President, Bob Kroll, relating to an upcoming story for 60 Minutes was referred to me by the Federation for a response.

The tragic and senseless death of Mr. Floyd has renewed and heightened long-standing scrutiny regarding the POFM, Mr. Kroll, and police unions. Unfortunately, most of the media coverage has failed in the laudable goal of informing the public on difficult and complicated issues of policing and labor law and instead has resorted to regurgitating oft repeated, but unproven and undocumented opinions from police administrators and elected officials who seek to deflect attention away from their failures by scapegoating police unions, their leaders and collective bargaining agreements as the impediments to meaningful change.

For more than 30 years, I have represented the POFM over the tenure of numerous Federation Presidents, Police Chiefs and Mayors, and can tell you that the truth is that the POFM has consistently sought to be an agent of change in pursuing the goals of: hiring good people with diverse backgrounds; providing necessary training, supervision and accountability for all (not just for rank and file patrol officers); caring for officers' psychological and emotional health so that they do not lose the ability to make good decisions or the compassion needed to treat people with respect; and improving the relationships between officers and the communities they serve. A legitimate analysis of the reasons these goals have not sufficiently been attained would show that, despite the efforts of the POFM and its leadership, too often the Police Administration and elected officials from the City of Minneapolis have failed to develop, implement, fund, and/or maintain these initiatives. As a result, the community *and* their police officers have suffered.

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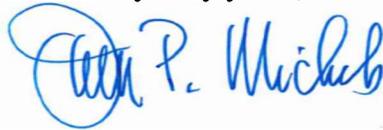
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The POFM is concerned that the questions posed to the Federation and Mr. Kroll indicate the intent of CBS is to air a story focused more on fanning the flames of controversy between the Federation and “City Hall” rather than attempting to inform the public about the complex interplay between Minnesota’s public sector labor laws, the collective bargaining process and the legal obligations unions owe to their members. Therefore, the POFM and Mr. Kroll believe that it would not serve the public interest or the interest of the POFM membership to respond to these questions.

Moreover, I urge you and your staff to carefully research before airing as fact the mythology set forth as allegations in the 2007 lawsuit which, although naming Mr. Kroll as a party, fails to assert any legal claim for which he or the Federation had either the opportunity or responsibility to impact the status of the plaintiffs within the Minneapolis Police Department.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Michels". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James P. Michels