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For Immediate Release
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Gathering Point Community Council Leader Richard Wooten Calls for the Resignation of the President of the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO - Former longtime Chicago Police Officer Richard Wooten, who has become a leading advocate for improved relations between police and community, today called for the resignation of the president of the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police Lodge.

Wooten, who heads Gathering Point Community Council, one of the Chicago organizations that called on the U.S. Department of Justice to help bring about reform of the Chicago Police Department, said John Catanzara should be removed immediately for defending the actions of the large mob that is responsible for the riot at the U.S. Capitol. The mob actions led to the deaths of five individuals, including a law enforcement officer. Catanzara shared his sentiments publicly during an interview about the tragic turn of events on Wednesday in Washington, which were motivated by President Donald Trump to block the Democratic process for President-Elect Joe Biden to assume the chief executive role.

“John Catanzara is delirious and should be removed from his position and indefinitely suspended from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP),” Wooten said. “He takes the side of non-law-abiding angry agitators who are trying to disrupt the democracy of the American people by looting, and vandalizing, and who are responsible for the deaths of four participants and the murder of a U.S. Capitol police officer. He has truly shown that he is not on the side of justice and he is unfit to hold the seat of president of the FOP #7.”

Wooten said Catanzara reflects the double standard protocol being displayed in the Chicago Police Department and by the so-called representatives of the FOP who are displaying racist and insensitive radical behavior while using their badge and positions to promote their radical and racist agendas. These racist sentiments, he said, continue to damage police and community relations.

“The Chicago police department has great, hardworking and dedicated officers who are serving the people of Chicago with dignity, but their commitment and dedication is being overshadowed by the malicious acts of people like the union president,” Wooten said. “He needs to feel the

wrath of members separating themselves from this relentless and unfit person before he further tarnishes their reputations. And by the way, he will only apologize after seeing the damage caused by his words and the repercussions that will follow, but his apology will fall on deaf ears because it is like Trump denouncing acts of violence. To heal our city and nation, Catanzara must go and he must go now.” ###

Richard Wooten, The Crime Agitator, is a longtime Chicago police officer, a community advocate and the founder and president of the Gathering Point Community Council. Gathering Point, a 501 c (3) non-for-profit organization was established in 1998 as a mentoring organization for at risk youth. In time, Gathering Point has evolved to become Gathering Point Community Council, an organization dedicated to restoring values in at risk communities through the philosophy of for the people, by the people. The organization also works to improve relations between law enforcement officials and citizens. For additional information about Gathering Point Community Council visit <https://www.gatheringpointcommunitycouncil.com/>. To arrange interviews, please contact Jerry Thomas, jerry@jerrythomaspr.com (312) 414-4016.