

# Local 99

American Federation of Musicians • AFL - CIO / CLC

*artistry  
advocacy  
unity*

August 3rd, 2020

President Ray Hair  
American Federation of Musicians  
1501 Broadway  
Ninth Floor  
New York, NY 10036



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Portland, OR 97232  
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Dear President Hair and AFM International Executive Board,

As union members affiliated with the AFL-CIO, we strive to uphold its stated intent to “fight for social and economic justice and strive to vanquish oppression in all its forms.” As such, we feel a responsibility to hold affiliate members in police unions accountable to these values as well. We call on the American Federation of Musicians to join other unions in publicly making this demand: police unions must dismantle the structures they have erected to protect officers who engage in racially targeted violence, racial profiling, and other unlawful conduct toward Black and other citizens of color.

We affirm that police unions, like all unions, have the right to bargain collectively for their members’ wages, benefits, and working conditions. However, police unions have continually abused the power of collective bargaining in ways that protect their members from accountability for violent behavior, racist killings, and actions that have made our communities far less safe. As unionists, we cannot support any collective bargaining rights that stand in the way of racial, social, and economic justice. No collective bargaining process should obstruct police accountability. In this moment, that means eliminating the ability to override discipline or reinstate officers that are dismissed for excessive use of force complaints. Police unions must do the work of eradicating racism within their ranks and upholding their promise to serve and protect all people equally.

In Solidarity,

AFM Local 99 Executive Board

For detailed information about how police contracts block accountability, see here:  
<https://www.checkthepolice.org/#project>