



# New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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Dear Fellow Union Brother/Sister:

I am reaching out to you in regards to a matter that is of the utmost importance and requires your immediate attention. Quite frankly, that matter is the future of our organizations.

As you are most likely aware, the referendum to decide whether or not New York's Constitutional Convention will move forward is set for November 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME* as early as this winter; a ruling could be issued by June 2018. Adverse outcomes for either of these two proceedings carry with it enormous ramifications for public sector unions. That is why it is imperative for organizations like ours, public sector law enforcement unions and associations, to come together and fight these opposing interests. The very future of our organizations depend on it.

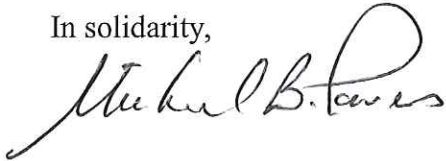
As public employees we find ourselves involved in many of the same battles with our employers as civilian titles do. But as law enforcement officials, the very nature of our jobs and the dangerous working conditions that we operate under requires the protections that a union provides. Make no mistake, the advancements attained by the labor movement has allowed our members to effectively carry out their job duties protecting the communities that they serve, all while ensuring that they make an honest wage and obtain the necessary benefits in order to protect themselves, their colleagues, and their families. Any adverse decisions in the matters discussed above threaten the very livelihoods of our families and co-workers.

How many times have you heard your members say, "What are my union dues doing for me?" For many members that question is answered the second that they get suspended or locked-out. Let's shine a light on the myriad of services and benefits that we provide to our members to protect them in their time of need. Then, if the time comes and the opposition prevails, our members will know what their dues are doing for them. They will understand that their small investment is for the greater good and for their protection during the hard times. We can then continue to represent them in manner that they so very much deserve.

Therefore, I am proposing that we develop a network of law enforcement organizations aimed at preventing the diminishment of our hard-fought rights and benefits as law enforcement officials. It is my hope that we, as leaders of our organizations, gather to collaborate and share ideas. Whether we meet in person or communicate via conference call or email, we need to develop a plan to educate our members and the public to combat the effects of Janus and the Con Con and also highlight the importance that our members continue to be involved in their union.

Together we can accomplish great things. I am hopeful that you will strongly consider the need for further discussions. Please consider appointing someone within your organization such as a Legislative Director or Communications Director in the event that you may not be available to meet or participate in further discussion. Please provide me with your contact information or that of a representative from your organization that would be willing to be part of this coalition. I eagerly await your response and look forward to coming together so that we can develop a plan going forward. I appreciate your time and courtesy.

In solidarity,



Michael B. Powers  
President  
NYSCOPBA

MP/djv

President Samuel Fresina - NYS Professional Fire Fighters Association  
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President Gerald Fitzgerald - Uniformed Firefighters Association  
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President Thomas Mungeer - New York Troopers PBA  
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President Peter Meringolo - NYS Public Employees Conference  
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