



**Muslim civil liberties group thanks NYPD Commissioner for standing up against xenophobic officer's behavior; warns of deeper, systemic problem**

**April 2, 2015** (New York, NY). The Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition is deeply disturbed by the unacceptable behavior caught on film by a New York City Police Department officer assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The JTTF is an allegedly elite, joint local and federal law enforcement unit that is tasked with investigating terrorism, and frequently interacts with the communities we work with and represent.

We applaud Commissioner Bratton for taking [swift action](#) in communicating that such behavior is unacceptable for any member of the NYPD and extending an apology to the driver and the two passengers who were subjected to the officer's abuse.

Unfortunately, this kind of behavior represents a common reality for the communities we work with, even though it is rarely caught on film or publicized. It is not surprising to MACLC members that the officer in question is part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. That unit primarily interacts with Muslim and other immigrant groups in New York City. The officer's behavior and apparent lack of concern about consequences of his actions is all the more indicative of a systemic problem.

MACLC has in the past called for re-training of NYPD officers, and for public denunciations by the NYPD of flawed counterterrorism theories that vilify Muslim and immigrant communities. We renew those calls in light of this recent incident.

We hope the Civilian Complaint Review Board investigates this incident and finds the officer appropriately guilty of misconduct. However, we also expect that the systemic faults that lead to this kind of animus towards immigrant communities are also addressed, and that this incident not be brushed off as an isolated one. We urge the NYPD Inspector General, which recently released its [first annual report](#), to prioritize identifying these patterns in upcoming reports.

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