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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NOBLE National President Lynda R. Williams Statement on “Walking the Walk, Not Just Talking the Talk”**

**Alexandria, VA. – December 29, 2020** – Across the nation exists multiple examples of signed police reform legislation on accountability, changes to use of force training and deployment, independent investigative oversight, body and dashboard camera usage and duty of care protocols and yet, a seemingly lapse in protocols failed two African American men in two different Columbus, Ohio jurisdictions this month. As the country was preparing to celebrate the blissful joys of the season, the families of Casey Goodson Jr. and Andre Hill were preparing to bury their loved ones.

This is not a specific notation of the tandem of events that led to the deaths of these men (as those continue to be investigated) as much as it highlights that even as we, as a nation and a profession, have made swift and sweeping changes of law enforcement authorities, a breakdown in fundamental compliance to these authorities and policies caused failure; failure to those families, failure to the respective departments, failure to communities dependent on fair, just and a measured application of standard operating procedures, failure in the efforts to make good on the collective assertion that law enforcement not only talks of doing better but seeks to actually do better.

What will it really take for law enforcement personnel, and their management mentors, to ensure agreed upon standards and policies are not empty rhetoric to satisfy a "box check" on raising the bar of responsible deployment of sworn duties, but actually defines and permeates the culture of operational excellence throughout departments, our profession and, by association, public safety's relationship with its community?

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) has revised the "road map" to improve ethical and transparent behavior in the law enforcement profession, we have **talked** it to fruition; we now need to **walk** it to reality.

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**Lynda R. Williams** is currently the Professor of the Practice at Middle Tennessee State University in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration; with this appointment in 2017, she became the first individual bestowed this title in recognition. Prior to joining the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University, Ms. Williams led an accomplished career as a veteran of the United States Secret Service, from 1988 until she retired, as the Deputy Assistant Director in 2017. As President of NOBLE, Ms. Williams is focused on achieving the organization's goals through a three-pillar platform on police reform, gun violence, and voter engagement.