



International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters



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PRESS RELEASE-

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On behalf of the members of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters and at the pleasure of our Executive Board, I issue the following statement regarding the Supreme Court decision in the *Frank Ricci, et al. v. John DeStefano, et al.* case:

We are surprised and very disappointed with this decision. It is clear that the majority of the Court is caught up in a time warp. Especially disheartening is the Court's failure to see the changing face of race issues and the need for diversity in this country, particularly in our safety forces as they continue to take not only a community but a more global role.

We believe that it opens the door wide open for cheap and substandard testing and virtually guarantees that persons discriminated against- whether White, Black, or Hispanic- will have to resort to courts to have their issues redressed. This will sadly make any resolution of discrimination and testing far more adversarial, combative, and expensive than it needs to be.

Again, this official statement is offered on behalf of the dedicated men and women of our organization as a united front for every individual and local chapter. We know this ruling will not end the quest for redefining Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As Americans revisit disparate impact, we still contend diversity is a matter of national security and is a compelling state interest in our profession. Members of the IABPFF Executive Board and our legal counsel will peruse the Supreme Court's decision to determine the impact before we make any other public statements. Thank you for your time, commitment, and concern.

Keeping the Fire Burning for Justice,

Joseph B. Muhammad, IABPFF President