

New York State Board

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**ANCIENT ORDER
OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA**
INCORPORATED
Originated in New York City, May 4, 1836

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For immediate release

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NYS AOH Denounce Echoes of “No Irish Need Apply” in Criticism of Appointment of Dermot Shea to NYPD Commissioner

New City, New York – 11/13/2019– New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians (NYSAOH)

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of New York is both troubled and disappointed concerning public statements by certain political and community leaders in opposition to the appointment of Dermot Shea to the position of Police Commissioner of the NYPD. The Hibernians note that these objections to Mr. Shea’s appointment do not center on his qualification for the position of Commissioner, for which he seems eminently qualified, but on his race and ethnicity. These critics appear not to have embraced Dr. King’s exhortation to judge a person “*not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character.*” Egregiously, these outrageous comments are being put forth under the pretext of championing “diversity.”

It appears that Councilman Donovan Richards, State Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz, and others believe that Mr. Shea should have been disqualified from consideration as Police Commissioner because of his Irish heritage. To summarily dismiss someone solely on the basis of their ethnicity is the textbook definition of prejudice and discrimination. With selective myopia, these critics ignore the commonality of Mr. Shea’s story with so many New Yorkers of every race, creed, and ethnicity. A first-generation American child of struggling immigrant parents, Mr. Shea started at the bottom and has had a distinguished career rising to the top ranks of the department, validating the American dream and the promise that New York symbolizes to so many immigrants past and current. Instead, these critics narrowly focus solely on the opportunity to create divisiveness by viewing Mr. Shea’s appointment in a simplistic black and white.

There is no room in 21st century New York for suggestions that we should reprise the 19th century “No Irish Need Apply” signs at the NYPD or elsewhere; such actions only further hypocrisy, not diversity.

###Ends###

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About the Ancient Order of Hibernians

Founded in 1836 with some 40,000 members covering 40 states, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is the oldest and largest Irish-Catholic Organization in the United States

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