

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Mr. Hai Bui**

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**HPD Officials Were Warned!**

**News Conference: Feb. 3, 2021, HPD Headquarters, 1200 Travis, 10:30 AM**

**HOUSTON, Feb. 1, 2021 -- In the wake of the indictments of 12 HPD officers tied to the botched Harding Street raid, which killed Rhogena Nicholas and her husband, Dennis Tuttle, and their dog, We the People Organize join other community groups in support of good police in the city of Houston, because not all cops are bad**

**Hai Bui, founder of We the People Organize, said, “As a result of HPD’s deadly actions against the Tuttles and the community at large, people are too often afraid of the police. That is why we are on a mission to heal the community and let those in the community know that there are more good cops than bad ones. We also call upon good police officers to report corruption to help heal our community and to hold corrupt officers accountable.”**

**For years, officers tried to warn HPD officials that officers were fabricating evidence investigations, and lying to judges, only to be retaliated against for reporting police misconduct. Many officers were terminated or issued erroneous dishonorable discharges based on fabricated evidence.**

**Former HPD Officer and whistleblower Kathy Swilley tried to warn HPD officials that HPD officers were fabricating evidence, including her wrongful termination, presenting verifiable evidence that HPD presented a fabricated certification, of then-Chief Harold L. Hurtt, and other documents to a judge as part of a scheme to fraudulently obtain summary judgments ruling in favor of the City of Houston and HPD.**

**On June 26, 2018, Dave Atwood, with the Greater Houston Coalition for Justice (GHCFJ) wrote a letter to Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, regarding the fabricated evidence in Swilley’s and other officers’ cases. Mr. Atwood’s letter advised Chief Acevedo that the Coalition was concerned that the police misconduct of fabricating evidence in Swilley’s case, and other cases, was detrimental to the citizens of Houston. Atwood requested a meeting to discuss his concerns with the HPD Chief, to no avail.**

**The GHCFJ also requested an official investigation into HPD Lieutenant Marsha Todd fabricating evidence, related to officers’ terminations. Todd is now named in civil litigation related to the Harding Street killings. Seven months later on January 28, 2019, the Tuttles were killed, as the results of a botched drug raid based on fabricated evidence. Had an investigation been done into Mr. Atwood’s concerns for the safety of the citizens of Houston, the Tuttles might still be alive.**

**Bui added, “It’s clear that corruption exists within the Houston Police Department and problem is much bigger than Officer Gerald Goines or the Narcotics Division, the corruption is much broader.**

**What happened to the Tuttles, the countless victims arrested on bogus drug charges, and police whistleblowers can happen to anyone without a citizens review board without subpoena power. Change is needed.”**