

**Fraternal Order of Police
September 17, 2008**

- **Speaking 10-15 minutes.**
 - **“Officers are confronting new and constant increasing dangers and we must work together to promote officer safety and basic rights for officers.”**
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Good morning. Thank you for the invitation. I'm honored to be here today as a candidate for governor.

And I thank each one of you for your service to your communities and to North Carolina.

You are on the frontline each and every day keeping us safe – the sacrifices you make are countless. Thank you & your families.

Since I'm speaking to the Fraternal Order of Police – this seemed like the perfect time to talk about crime, gangs, and the challenges NC faces with both.

For a while we all felt successful about the statewide reduction in crime rates over the last decade and a half. But now we see those numbers ticking back up as many communities struggle to make their streets safer. And in some areas there's an actual alarming rise in crime.

And gangs are becoming more prevalent and more dangerous every month.

So a critical priority for me as NC's next governor is to work with you and all of law enforcement to secure our streets, neighborhoods, and homes.

We must make smart investments in schools and job creation – keeping kids in school and out of gangs – and giving them opportunities for college and learning 21st century job skills.

But if our kids and teachers don't feel safe in those schools, or our people don't feel safe on the streets going to work - then those investments won't pay off.

So we have to be smart on solutions, and tough on criminals to get them off the street.

During my time in the general assembly and as Lt. Governor, I've fought for laws that protect the public and battle the spread of drugs and gangs through stronger penalties and prevention.

I've championed the rights of victims and vulnerable populations. And this past General Assembly session in particular we cracked down on sexual predators by passing my proposal to require convicted sex offenders to register their email addresses. And passed Jessica's law – that requires sexual predators to wear tracking devices so you know their whereabouts.

And always stood up for law enforcement officers - including a 25-year retirement. My commitment to you did not start with a governor race & it surely won't end after I'm governor. We will continue to be partners.

My goal is simple: to make sure justice in every NC community is swift and sure.

To send the message loud and clear that actions have consequences – that in NC the law and its officers mean business.

Among other things, as Governor, here are some of the things we need to do to keep our neighborhoods, streets and homes safe:

- Give those of you on the frontlines the tools you need to combat criminals.

Officers are confronting new and constantly increasing dangers. We must work together to promote safety and protect the basic rights of officers.

If communities are getting the short end of the stick when it comes to funding - I will fix that - or give local areas options to create local solutions.

- I will lead on effectively and quickly prosecuting criminals. We will keep them off the street and behind bars

To do that I will boost the numbers of DA's, judges, magistrates, and clerks - and increase their pay so we can retain them.

- As governor, I will push loud and clear for Washington to stand up for “hometown security”.
Putting more cops in crime hot-spots around the state.

If George Bush had his way he would dismantle the federal COPS crime prevention initiative. And even before George Bush became President, my opponent supported cuts in Washington that his hometown paper said would gut the COPS initiative.

You all know the importance of this money, some of you used this money to crack down on meth dealers and to combat gangs in your counties.

Obviously the opponents of this initiative don't live in some of the neighborhoods you patrol.

- I will support more financial assistance for training and participation in the federal 287(g) program and other initiatives you tell me will help deport undocumented immigrants who commit crimes here

- I will continue to fight for better 21st century communications and technology in order to provide important, and perhaps life saving, coordination of resources and databases to you out there on the street.
- I will, with your strong help - continue to be tough on gangs and attack them as the organized crime that they really are
- For crimes that involve guns and drugs, I will push for more severe penalties
- And I will make sure that sentences are strong and long for all violent criminals and ensure that we have the prison capacity to make those sentences happen

I will be your partner in the fight against crime, as we strive to make our communities safer.

As governor I will be tough on crime and smart on solutions.

That's how we'll keep kids living on the edge from becoming career criminals.

That's how we'll crack down on those who belong behind bars. That's how you and I will defeat crime in NC.

To do that I need you vote and your support. Thank you.