



NORTH CAROLINA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE CONDEMNS FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL'S ACTION

January 25, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The North Carolina State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, the oldest police organization in America, and the largest organization of law enforcement officers in North Carolina, is calling on the Fayetteville City Council to reverse its decision to suspend consent searches in traffic stops. At its Monday, January 23rd meeting, the Council voted 8 to 2 to impose a moratorium on consent searches by Fayetteville police officers until members of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives can complete a review of the practice. The moratorium is to last four months, or until the review is completed.

Fraternal Order of Police State President Terry Mangum called the Council's action "troubling." "If a city council in Fayetteville, or anywhere else, begins dictating to its city police officers what laws they can and cannot enforce, the ramifications are never ending. Officers are sworn to uphold state law, and the North Carolina and Federal Constitutions. A city council should not be telling officers which laws to enforce."

Mangum went on by explaining that a consent search is just that; a search with the consent or permission of the person being searched. "Why should you stop an officer from doing something a person gives the officer permission to do?"

The Fraternal Order of Police has been working with its staff attorneys and others to determine what, if anything can be done. With conflicting legal opinions having been given to the Council as to whether it can do what it did, Fayetteville may end up being a test case for whether a city council may impose its view of how the criminal law should be enforced on those that are trained to enforce the laws.

"I can promise you that first and foremost the Fraternal Order of Police is going to be looking out after the rights and obligations of all officers in North Carolina," Mangum concluded.

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