



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOP's RESPONSE TO THE CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD'S DECISION ON CMS TEACHER JASMINE HORNE

[CHARLOTTE, NC, MAY 14, 2022----] The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #9 is disappointed with the CRB's recent decision disagreeing with CMPD Chief Johnny Jennings' disposition of the interaction between Jasmine Horne and CMPD officers. Our organization stands behind Chief Jennings and supports his decision in this matter. While the CRB is a board of ordinary citizens, Chief Jennings is a career law enforcement official with in-depth knowledge of police operations and discipline policies. In addition, CMPD's Internal Affairs Investigators have decades of combined experience investigating police misconduct. Decisions in applying discipline must be done in accordance with policies and practices afforded to law enforcement officers when dealing with matters that rapidly evolve. While unfortunate for Ms. Horne, the officers involved in this matter conducted themselves accordingly given the facts they knew at the time.

Law enforcement officers across this country investigate millions of crimes each year that are reported to them by victims. Chief Jennings has previously stated that CMPD alone has more than 500,000 citizen contacts each year and we hope that citizens can understand how Jasmine Horne was mistaken for Jaslyn Horne. This was an error that unfortunately occurred, yet Ms. Horne was released in the same amount of time as someone pulled over by police for an ordinary traffic violation. She was treated respectfully by the officers who, at the time, did not know Ms. Horne was a victim of mistaken identity. Officers apologized and released her as soon as they realized she was not the person they were looking for.

The Citizen Review Board lacks a complete understanding of how investigations of this magnitude develop, how suspects are identified and tracked, or how police tactics and training are conducted. It is our belief, in this matter, that the CRB ruled based on emotion in order to gain attention to themselves given they are upset they do not have subpoena power. The CRB has advocated for subpoena power with little traction and this case brings them the attention we feel they are after. They complain no one is willing to speak with them so they want to compel witnesses and officers to make statements. Currently, citizen witnesses, victims, and police officers can voluntarily choose to speak with the CRB. The CRB is given the complete Internal Affairs investigative file on cases they review - forcing additional statements is unnecessary.

In closing, we again thank and fully support CMPD Chief Johnny Jennings for his disposition in this matter and look forward to positive changes learned from this incident.

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[The FOP is an organization representing law enforcement members with training, leadership, and support for our members. We are a united voice within Charlotte-Mecklenburg working together for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. We also work on legislation that makes our communities safer. It is our mission to further promote the values of the law enforcement profession and work with the community and governmental leaders to make Mecklenburg County a safe place to live, work, and enjoy! If you would like more information or have questions, please email us at pio@ncfoplodge9.com]

