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## **THE CIG'S REQUEST TO GIVE THE CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD SUBPOENA POWER IS UNSOUND**

[CHARLOTTE, NC, November 9, 2020----] It is the North Carolina's Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #9 position that giving subpoena power to call upon officers to testify in evidentiary hearings at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Citizens Review Board (CRB) is counterintuitive. The Community Input Group's (CIG) request is another push to undermine officers legal rights.

The CRB was created to increase transparency and trust between law enforcement agencies and communities. The FOP supports transparency between Local Law Enforcement Agencies and the public. Officers should be afforded the legal right to decide whether they will attend and testify at these hearings. A Plaintiff's attorneys frequently leverages the evidentiary hearing process to seek a legal opportunity to file civil action against an officer. Requiring an Officer to attend and provide testimony to a non-investigatory board, against the advice of their private legal counsel, denies the officer his or her right to due process.

The CRB is already afforded complete access to investigations, including interviews and statements of the officer, secondary officers and independent witnesses who were present at the time of the incident. The CRB also has the authority to seek additional investigatory information they may need to conduct their review.

The purpose of the CRB is to review if procedures were followed and make recommendations. Its purpose is not to conduct a separate and independent fact finding investigation. The board has neither the training nor expertise and could harm the true investigation.

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[The FOP is an organization representing police officers 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 work on legislation to make our communities safer.

If you would like more information or to set up an Interview in English or Spanish, please call Yolian Y. Ortiz at 413-244-4356, or email [pio@ncfoplodge9.com](mailto:pio@ncfoplodge9.com)]

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