



August 21st, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Fraternal Order of Police Files Complaint with Davidson County Circuit Court

Nashville, TN— This afternoon, the Fraternal Order of Police filed a complaint with the Davidson County Circuit court seeking a review of the recently verified petition signatures to amend the metropolitan charter which would implement a Civilian Oversight Board if passed. It is the opinion of the Fraternal Order of Police that the selected election used to measure the required number of signatures is incorrect. Therefore, we are submitting our case to a higher authority for review.

To be clear, the Fraternal Order of Police is wholly opposed to the passage of the currently proposed legislation. While this specific lawsuit is based solely on the merits of the verification, our concern that the current proposed legislation lacks perspective from law enforcement, creates an environment lacking due process, and violates employee rights are the foundations of our position. It is important to note that our opposition, however, does not indicate our unwillingness to have the community participate in discussions regarding their involvement in policing strategies.

In fact, before this bill was advanced, the Fraternal Order of Police had proactively participated in conversations with community organizations in an attempt to find some common ground and develop a solution that would be fair and equitable to all sides. Unfortunately, the advancement of this legislation occurred before those conversations could produce any workable solutions.



ANDREW JACKSON LODGE NO. 5

We are disappointed that proponents of the current Community Oversight legislation are seeking to unfairly judge police officers' actions, exclude valuable input from professionals who have relevant experience and education, and seek to abolish policing in America. Clearly, these are not values that the Fraternal Order of Police can support. We renew our calls to the community to look at this issue objectively and understand that it does not represent fair and equitable solutions for all parties involved. Anything less than a solution that represents all parties equally and has the better interests of all Nashvillians at heart is simply unacceptable and should not be advanced.

The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement personnel, with more than 330,000 members in more than 2,100 lodges. Andrew Jackson Lodge 5 of the Fraternal Order of Police is an organization made up of full-time and retired full time law enforcement. Lodge 5 is open to local, state and federal law enforcement personnel stationed in the Nashville area.

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