



Kansas City, Missouri

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #99

527 W 39th Ste 201, Kansas City, Mo 64111

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August 3, 2016

Brothers and Sisters,

Yesterday a statement from Chief Darryl Forte' was released that was provided from his office in headquarters. During that video he makes several comments that I take exception to. The men and women that work in that building and buildings all over the city are the finest people I have ever known and have the pleasure to work with. Our members give their heart and soul to the citizens of Kansas City and unfortunately, some have given all. In front of headquarters is a statue that contains 119 names of those that have lost their lives in the service of Kansas City, 83 of those fine officers died as a result of gunfire.

Each of us were trained in a nationally recognized academy, and our curriculum is approved by members of command and then certified by Missouri's POST commission. Our training is not sub-standard, in fact, I would challenge anyone to find fault with it. Our firearms section was just recognized for identifying several training issues that provides options to disengage and seek cover while contacting armed and dangerous subjects.

An accusation was made by Chief Forte' that we have gone around him regarding policy changes and "try to get favor" with those who make decisions. Our current contract with the Board of Police Commissioners specifically allows for us to be included in policy discussions, and when our input and suggestions are ignored we are allowed to address the Board directly. The chief signed that contract and is aware of the procedure. I will make no apologies for taking the opportunity to protect our member's rights in that contract.

I cannot understand any statement regarding unreasonable fear on our member's part when dealing with life and death situations. We are humans, and not robots. We have families and lives. The fear that officers feel during critical incidents is real. It is not for someone else to tell us what is reasonable or unreasonable. We make decisions based on the totality of circumstances, and strive to do what is reasonable. Our training is based on rulings from our great country's Supreme Court.

I ask that Chief Forte' address these issues in a public forum and provide our members with some resolution to his statements not only yesterday, but in forums that he has spoken at a number of times in the last several weeks. There are a number of videos that suggest that he didn't misspeak, but holds those values.

We will continue to serve our city with honor and dignity. We swore an oath to do so, and our word is our bond. Our family is a great family, and in these dangerous times we will strive to be the leaders that our community deserve.

Brad Lemon

President FOP Lodge #99