



ASSOCIATION OF FORMER NEW JERSEY STATE TROOPERS, INC.

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June 29, 2020

FTA RESPONSE TO AG'S DIRECTIVE #2020-05 & #06!

Greetings,

The June 15, 2020, public announcement by the Attorney General caught everyone by surprise. There was no discussion with representatives from any law enforcement agency regarding the concept, reasoning, concerns, conditions, or facts that drove this Directive. It was simply described as a moment that did not afford a robust process, it was not only a moral moment, but one of professionalism and accountability, a moment of reaction to a national crisis that caused a willingness to listen to the plight of the disenfranchised, a moment in law enforcement training that would produce transparency. This Directive is meant to put New Jersey in the forefront of combating excessive force by law enforcement against the citizenry. Remarkably, New Jersey ranks 47th in the nation in excessive force deaths against citizens!

Subsequent to that announcement, Executive Officers of the FTA have been steadfastly working with representatives of the STFA, NCO, SOA, PBA, and the FOP towards establishing an understanding of the content of these Directives and the establishment of common ground to negotiate from. You may have read a lot on social media and even several newspaper articles delineating the positions of all concerned, and you may have noticed that the FTA has not been mentioned alongside the other collective bargaining units, and that's just fine. The FTA was incorporated sixty-one years ago as a fraternal/social organization and cannot be involved in collective bargaining matters. But that doesn't mean we aren't deeply involved. FTA President, Nick Soranno and I have been involved every day, every step of the way, side by side with the unions, and we are adamant about mandating that the concerns of every Retired Jersey Trooper are being addressed, and we did just that during an almost two-hour meeting with the Attorney General on June 24th. I can assure you, the Attorney General heard us loud and clear!

As you may have heard, the STFA has taken the lead regarding filing an in-house grievance, complaints, and an injunction in court. They are being supported by the NCO, SOA, PBA, FOP, and yes, the FTA. Attorneys representing every agency are working together towards thwarting the devastating effects these Directives will have on every law enforcement agency, Officer and Trooper, Active and Retired. I strongly suggest everyone who may be affected by the implementation of the Attorney General's Directives take the time to read the STFA's Filed Brief Exhibits CIS.pdf currently posted on the FTA Web Site. You will find that retirees are prominently included throughout each and every point of interest!

We are confident that the injunction will be approved, thus delaying any implementation of the Directives, until completion of all court proceedings. But that may be a long time in the making, and as we all know from past experience, there is no guarantees when it comes to the New Jersey court system!

In the meantime, the FTA is working with Brach Eichler's Labor and Employment practice group to assist in addressing any questions surrounding the concerns of retired Jersey Troopers who may be affected should this Directive be implemented. If you have questions, contact Carl J. Soranno at 973-403-3127.

For the President
Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr.

Thank you, and My Best Regards,

George J. Wren, Jr.
Vice President

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