

To All FOP Lodge 89 Members,

I recently received an anonymous email stating the following:

**“Guess I'm gonna get ready for the "mandatory" meeting. I've been hearing alot of rumblings from the rank and file wanting to know where is their represntatives? Who is defending them? Where is the outrage at reporters showing up at your member's front door? Where was the outrage when YOUR endorsed candidate went to the Washington Compost making your members look bad?????”**

**“Putting out pretty little newsletters that sound like an Obama campaign speech is NOT getting the job done! Everything is not "hunky dory"!!!**

I have always asked that when presented with rumor or innuendo that this membership should reach out to me directly. Some have come down to the Lodge and addressed their issues and concerns with me face to face, while others have chosen to forward their concerns via email. I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the comments made in this posting from an unidentified member.

**“Guess I'm gonna get ready for the "mandatory" meeting.**

I became aware of the Chief's meetings late last night. I met with the Chief today to address some of the concerns members had with the purpose and timing of these mandatory meetings. The Chief explained his position and desire to meet with the membership directly to address any issues or concerns regarding the handling of the recently publicized College Park incident.

I brought up another concern from the membership regarding the issue of officers on midnights. The Chief advised that he would schedule a couple of meetings at the start of the midnight shift to accommodate these members.

I have been in constant contact with the Chief throughout this incident. And, I am purposely staying away from these meetings so that **you, the membership**, can speak directly with the Chief.

**I've been hearing a lot of rumblings from the rank and file wanting to know where is their representatives?**

I have been meeting with many of you, the membership, regarding this and any other of a number of issues ranging from contract negotiations, furlough lawsuit, etc... Your representation is here standing tall for you! We have attempted to respond to every shooting, serious injury of an officer, and any family or personal problem.

As for this most recent incident, I did not want to make any statements until I had an opportunity to gain as much information as possible. A generic Press Release was provided to

the media yesterday on this membership's behalf. Today, I have spoken with several media outlets voicing our members concerns and asking the public to await passing judgment until this investigation is complete.

### **Who is defending them?**

As for this question, I have been in **direct** contact with many of the officers involved in this matter. Legal representation has been or is being provided. Each officer has been advised of my personal support and the support of this organization. Additionally, these officers and this membership have been asked to contact me in order to stay abreast of what is transpiring.

### **Where is the outrage at reporters showing up at your member's front door?**

I became aware of this today. I have spoken directly with those media outlets that did respond to their residences. And, my outrage and disgust was addressed directly at them.

### **Where was the outrage when YOUR endorsed candidate went to the Washington Compost making your members look bad??????**

Rafael Hylton is the endorsed candidate for Sheriff by FOP Lodge 89. The actions of Rafael Hylton regarding this incident have been addressed with him. It was never the intent of Rafael Hylton to embarrass any member of this agency or his own. This matter was presented to the media to address an alleged internal issue within the Sheriff's Department which I am not a party of. Brother Rafael Hylton has expressed his apologies for any undue embarrassment he may have caused.

### **“Putting out pretty little newsletters that sound like an Obama campaign speech is NOT getting the job done! Everything is not "hunky dory"!!!**

I believe my last newsletter made it very clear that nothing was “hunky dory.” Our newsletters are printed specifically for the purpose of informing our membership clearly and concisely. The goal of the newsletters, the website, the Facebook page, and the constant email updates, are so our members can be clearly informed about the issues at hand without having to turn to the rumor mill for answers. We will continue to use these forums to educate and inform our members.

In closing, as I mentioned before I encourage any of you who have any concerns about any issues to contact me directly. I cannot have your concerns addressed if I don't know them. Unfortunately there is a small minority who would prefer to criticize as opposed to help with problem solving. We hope that the majority of you know that we are accessible and willing to listen to criticism. It is our elected role to express your concerns and not to tear each other apart. It is most critical that our only true concern is the well being of our members. We must use good judgment and forethought in handling this and all situations that may affect this membership. Please know that despite outside pressure from the uninformed your leadership at the FOP will continue to consider all options before making a knee jerk reaction or criticism. Most

importantly continue to support these officers and each other as we battle through this trying time.

**Sender// Ismael “Vince” Canales, President, FOP Lodge 89**