



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**YOLIAN Y. ORTIZ**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**  
**PHONE: 413-244-4356**  
**EMAIL: [PIO@NCFOPLODGE9.COM](mailto:PIO@NCFOPLODGE9.COM)**

## **THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DECISION ON NOT PROSECUTING LOW-LEVEL DRUG OFFENSE SETS A DOUBLE STANDARD FOR OFFICERS**

*[CHARLOTTE, NC, January 27, 2021----*] The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office decision on not prosecuting low-level drug offense sets a double standard for Police Officers and Deputies across the county. The District Attorney is creating an environment where officers will "Practice Law" which is in direct violation of their oath. An officer's job is to enforce the laws set by the North Carolina General Assembly, not to set laws or direct policymaking.

The Fraternal Order of Police believes all misdemeanor and felony charges of possession should still be prosecuted. However, these crimes are a public health concern and offenders should be diverted to the appropriate treatment centers. Felony charges of possession of narcotics with intent to sell should be prosecuted. A high number of these types of cases are linked to violent crime, specifically homicides.

This decision may create a public perception of leniency around drug-related activities, place officers at a higher risk of danger and inhibit the ability to address violent crime at the source.

Until The North Carolina General Statutes (Chapter 90) changes, officers will continue to enforce the law as written.

###

[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)]

**THE NORTH CAROLINA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, LODGE #9**



**[NCFOPLODGE9.COM](http://NCFOPLODGE9.COM)**



**[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NCFOP9](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NCFOP9)**



**[@FOPCHARLOTTE](https://twitter.com/FOPCHARLOTTE)**