



Durham County Lodge #2 FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE



PO Box 15305,
Durham, NC 27704
(919) 697-7426
(919) 697-6876

Thomas Navarre
President

Michael Hamilton
Financial Secretary

April 13, 2018

City of Durham Mayor and City Council Representatives,

The Fraternal Order of Police Durham County Lodge 2 would like to express its profound opposition of the “Demilitarize! From Durham2Palestine” petition which is set to go before the Durham City Council for approval on April 16, 2018.

The proponents of the petition demand that the City of Durham halt any partnership that the Durham Police Department has or might enter into with Israeli Defense Forces and/or the Israel Police. The petition claims that Durham officials have participated in “racist police exchange programs.” This statement is inflammatory and untrue. Proponents of the petition are using a false narrative to further a political agenda; which is for Durham to become the first city in the United States to condemn exchanges between local police and Israeli Security forces, and ultimately stand in opposition of the Israeli occupation. It also serves to push their anti-police agenda.

The North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police consists of approximately 6,700 members. With 56 local lodges, we are part of national Fraternal Order of Police organization that is approximately 330,000 members strong. Many of our members are either part of the Jewish community or have close ties to the Jewish community. This petition is not only offensive to law enforcement community, but members of our Jewish community.

There is no question this is a divisive issue. This issue does not just affect the City of Durham, the Jewish community, or local law enforcement, it affects the nation as a whole. It is for that very reason the City of Durham should not take an official stance on the matter. Careful considerations must be taken regarding this matter. The implications will be far reaching.

On August 14, 2017, a Confederate Statue in Durham was torn down creating widespread controversy. The incident, and the events that proceeded, made national and international news. Thousands of people across the United States took notice, and for the first time set their sights on the City of Durham. They took interest and kept watch.

Should this petition be accepted, it will not just be the residents and employees of the City of Durham that takes notice. Thousands, upon thousands of people across the country and abroad, will take notice as well. Should the petition be accepted, it will create a great divide within the City of Durham, which

normally strives for inclusion. It could also divide Durham from other cities and counties in the State of North Carolina, and potentially the nation.

In conclusion, we urge the council to reconsider this motion and refrain from taking an official position on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Navarre". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas Navarre
President, Durham County Fraternal Order of Police

TN/jr