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Date: Sept. 29, 2011

Subject: Ticket Writing

To: Members of the MPA  
Memphis-area media representatives

From: Michael Williams  
Vice-President, Memphis Police Association  
[michael.williams@memphispoliceassociation.org](mailto:michael.williams@memphispoliceassociation.org)

The leadership of the Memphis Police Association is appalled at comments made by members of the city's leadership regarding the recent drop in issued traffic tickets. The following memo addresses our concerns and response.

1. We are stunned by city councilmen Lowery and Collins' statements concerning a work slow down that they perceive is being orchestrated by this membership. The suggestion that we are childish or irresponsible is shocking. Nothing is further from the truth. Our officers work very hard to protect this city. In recent months, they have given their lives to protect citizens of this community.

The leadership of the MPA will not get involved in operational matters of the Memphis Police Department as suggested by councilman Lowery. Our jobs consist of more than ticket writing. In fact, issuing tickets is only a small part of our daily tasks.

There are several reasons that the ticket count is down:

- GHSO funds were limited
- Blue Crush ticket writing details were limited
- July was the hottest month of the year, and our officers felt the impact. Unfortunately, one of our officers succumbed to the heat.

Morale is down; however, the citizens' safety is always our top priority

The councilmen should know and understand state law before making uninformed statements.

2. State Outlaws Traffic Ticket Quotas: Anti-Quota Law

Thanks to legislation that effectively banned the shady practice on July 1, 2010, the days of traffic cops needing to meet quotas for ticketing motorists are over in Tennessee.

Signed in to law on June 2, 2010 by Governor Phil Bredesen and originally sponsored by State Senator Tim Burchett, the legislation states that state and local law enforcement agencies “may not establish or maintain, formally or informally, a plan to evaluate, promote, compensate, or discipline a law enforcement officer solely by the issuance of a predetermined or specified number of any type or combination of types of traffic citations.”

The anti-quota law also “prohibits a political subdivision or any agency of this state from requiring or suggesting to a law enforcement officer that the officer is required or expected to issue a predetermined or specified number of traffic citations within a specified period.

Tickets cannot be used as another form of taxation.

We request this memorandum be given the widest distribution. Questions or concerns may be directed to the Memphis Police Association at 901.523.7075.