



# **Fraternal Order of Police**

## **Florida State Lodge, District 5**

*The Voice of Florida's Law Enforcement Officers*

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Satz  
Office of the State Attorney, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
201 S.E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear State Attorney Satz:

As you are aware, an employee in your office, Jeffrey Caesar Chukwuma (ASA Chukwuma), has made and continues to make inflammatory public statements revealing his prejudicial beliefs against an entire class of people – police officers. Nothing reveals this more clearly than his stated position that law enforcement officers must be presumed guilty in any complaint against them. It is also revealed clearly by the following double standard - complaints against police officers without video must be presumed correct; actual arrests made with probable cause by police officers should not be accepted at all without video proof.

It would be surprising to hear such prejudice from a citizen with any knowledge of the Constitution and its guarantees of freedom from government accusation. It would be shocking to hear such prejudice furthered by an educated person, particularly an attorney. It is astounding to hear such prejudice from an assistant state attorney (ASA) sworn to defend the federal and state constitutions. It is appalling to hear you defend him.

The claim by ASA Chukwuma regarding the use of camera footage being required to substantiate any arrests made by police demonizes officers and destroys any trust between your office and our officers. His comments are not only foolish but destructive. Can this ASA withstand the same level of scrutiny he demands of officers? To find out, the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, District 5 (FOP) is asking for a review of all cases handled by ASA Chukwuma to see if he, in fact, did his job in prosecuting every case based solely on the facts and evidence without any personal bias or personal gain for himself or his family. As a public employee, his work should withstand the light of day. All prosecutors should conduct themselves with the utmost integrity in representation of the people they serve through your office.

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Since you have adopted his position, the standards you wish to impose on officers should also be applied to your ASAs. The process by which each case is handled should be made available for review, to ensure the prosecution is/was handled in an ethical, responsible, and unbiased manner. If officers cannot be taken at their word, then neither can attorneys. We propose the same ridiculous standard be applied throughout the entire process. Every interaction by an attorney with a victim or witness, or any other participant in the system, should be video-recorded in its entirety to ensure the process is being honestly and faithfully carried out. All such video should be available for review. This is only suggested to enhance transparency.

The public suggestions and comments made by ASA Chukwuma speak more to bias and a political agenda than any real desire for reform. A prosecutor should never use improper considerations, such as partisan, political or personal considerations in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion. He is capitalizing on an opportunity to air his own prejudice and disguise it as a call for change. His stated “presumption of guilt” against officers speaks to a deep-seated issue within his own beliefs and prejudices rather than a symptom of law enforcement. A prosecutor’s office should be proactive in efforts to detect, investigate, and eliminate improper biases. ASA Chukwuma openly advertised his position in your office and utilized it in his posts. By not condemning his remarks and rebuking his irresponsible and inflammatory comments, the Broward State Attorney’s Office, and you as the State Attorney, are endorsing the statements. You have defended statements of a prosecutor who believes police officers are not entitled to or deserving of the same due process guaranteed to every other American.

This is particularly disappointing because you, of all people, know the good work done by the men and women in law enforcement, and you know it cannot and does not always happen with video evidence. To insinuate that sworn law enforcement officers cannot be believed without video goes against everything we both stand for in enforcing the law. You seem to ignore the fact that we all took the same oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida. Neither of these documents contain a discriminatory exception omitting law enforcement officers from their protections.

On behalf of the members of the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, District 5, as outlined and executed below, we are officially requesting the immediate removal of ASA Chukwuma, as the community-at-large, not just the law enforcement community, cannot trust him to be fair. In addition, we want a review of all cases he has handled, particularly those he disposed of by plea or trial. His apparent inability to do his job without political and personal bias, and according to the rule of law, prevents him from being an effective asset to your office and to our community. No one can have confidence that he can, or will, execute his duties as an assistant state attorney without the underlying threat of interjecting personal prejudice. While the men and women in

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law enforcement and those members of the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, District 5, as outlined and executed below, continue to do exceptional police work upholding the laws of the State of Florida, we will continue to do so without the prosecutorial help of ASA Chukwuma.

Sincerely,



[George W. Woolley \(Jun 10, 2020 15:41 EDT\)](#)

George W. Woolley, Director  
Florida State FOP, District 5



Shane Calvey, Assistant Director  
Florida State FOP, District 5



[B. N. Pepper Shaw \(Jun 10, 2020 15:43 EDT\)](#)

Bertha Pepper Shaw, President  
Pompano Beach FOP, Lodge #23



[Brandon Diaz \(Jun 10, 2020 15:50 EDT\)](#)

Brandon Diaz, VP/Chief Steward  
Fort Lauderdale FOP, Lodge #31



[David Boros \(Jun 10, 2020 16:19 EDT\)](#)

David Boros, President  
Broward Sheriff's Ofc. FOP, Lodge #32



[Jake Steele \(Jun 10, 2020 16:25 EDT\)](#)

Jake Steele, State Trustee  
Plantation FOP, Lodge #42



[Paul Lindeman \(Jun 10, 2020 16:27 EDT\)](#)

Paul Lindeman, President  
Margate FOP, Lodge #75



[Steven Negrón \(Jun 10, 2020 16:33 EDT\)](#)

Steven Negrón, President  
Sunrise FOP, Lodge #80



Glenn Matonak, President  
Coral Springs FOP, Lodge #87



[John Strunk \(Jun 10, 2020 17:20 EDT\)](#)

John Strunk, President  
Davie FOP, Lodge #100



[Mustafa Malik \(Jun 10, 2020 17:58 EDT\)](#)

Mustaffa Malik, President  
Lauderhill FOP, Lodge #161