



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Cezar E. McKnight

District No. 101 - Clarendon -
Williamsburg Counties

314-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Committee:

Medical, Military, Public
and Municipal Affairs

Tel. (803) 212-6926

June 18, 2020

Rep. Jerry Govan, Chairman
South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus
1105 Pendleton Street Suite 207
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Govan:

Please be advised by receipt of this letter that I formally resign from the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC). Please remove me from your membership roll and please remove my name and likeness from all publications, including but not limited to the website of your organization.

For quite some time I have watched as this organization floundered and bounced haplessly along without direction or message. Initially I thought these fatal flaws would be righted and the SLBC would find its way. Yesterday's meeting with Chief Mark Keel and law enforcement representatives illustrated to me clearly that is not the case. Quite frankly SCLBC remains locked full speed on a road to nowhere.

At that meeting, rather than SCBLC laying out what it was that it wanted to reform in law enforcement and how to improve the lives of the least of those in South Carolina, you allowed to be yet another opportunity for Mark Keel and the representatives of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association to present us with their wish list of more money and no oversight. SCLBC had no message, no agenda, no vision. It is our community that is under siege and overpoliced, yet the SCLBC seems hellbent on the appeasement of law enforcement and does not at all want to bring a new and much needed level of accountability to policing here in South Carolina.

I presented you with twelve (12) items that could be legislation to help the citizens and you essentially ignored it. Please see attached. I told you prior to the meeting that I was

Rep. Jerry Govan

June 18, 2020

Page 2

on a very tight schedule but would come to Columbia from Kingstree to participate. You never even gave me an opportunity to speak until the very end of the meeting at which time I could not because of time constraints. You gave the entire meeting to law enforcement and they did what they always do when confronted with situations that require their reform: filibuster and dodge.

I cannot, in good conscious, continue to be affiliated with an organization that has no message, no agenda and no voice in such as a critical time like this. Best wishes in your future endeavors, whatever those might be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cezar E. McKnight', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and ending in a small 'x'.

Cezar E. McKnight, Esquire
South Carolina State Representative
District 101

Enclosure

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM TALKING POINTS

1. Immediate passage of civil asset forfeiture reform bill.
2. An end to "no knock" warrants.
3. A law requiring that body cameras be present and activated during the execution of all search warrants.
4. A law making it a crime for a law enforcement officer to knowingly lie or make misleading statements in police reports.
 - Walter Scott shooting.
 - Why is the officer that assisted Slager still not charged and why is he still working in Law Enforcement?
5. Fully funding departments to purchase body cameras and disciplinary action against any law enforcement officer who does not turn on his/her body cam and/or does not document the malfunction of his camera equipment INCLUDING car cameras and body mics.
6. A requirement that body cam footage from a police use of lethal force being released within 30 days of the incident.
7. An end to allowing law enforcement to run and retire in the middle of an investigation for misconduct.
8. A loss of all retirement benefits upon the conviction of misconduct in office or conviction for violating the rights of citizens, either state or federally.

9. A state database that catalogs disciplinary actions against law enforcement officers. This database must be internet based and publicly accessible.

10. Reforming the citizens arrest statute.

11. An end to qualified immunity.

12. Decriminalization of marijuana/cannabis.