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July 11, 2016

Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor, State of Louisiana
State Capital
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

RE: Calvin W. Braxton, Sr.

Dear Governor Edwards:

The undersigned represents the Louisiana State Troopers Association.

On behalf of the Association and pursuant to Article X Section 43 D of the Louisiana Constitution, we ask that you remove Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. from his position as an appointed member of the State Police Commission.

We attach an official Incident Report submitted to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections detailing the corrupt practices, the abuse and attempted abuse of his position by Commissioner Braxton. We ask that your office formulate written specifications of charges against Mr. Braxton and afford him an opportunity of a public hearing to address the charges all as specified in Section 43 D of Article X.

We append the Incident Report prepared by Captain Jay D. Oliphant, Jr., Troop E Commander which details specific facts which we believe would support at least the following charges that justify the prompt removal of Mr. Braxton.

The background relating to these charges arose out of the DWI arrest of his daughter on December 4, 2015 by a Louisiana State Trooper assigned to Troop E on patrol in Natchitoches Parish. His daughter was stopped for Speeding 68/55, Improper Lane Usage, Open Container and had blood alcohol concentration of .139%.

We believe that in the aftermath of his daughter's arrest, Mr. Braxton abused his position in at least the following respects:

1. Mr. Braxton asserted Trooper Linebaugh, the arresting officer, should have known "who he was";
2. He asserted his daughter should have not been arrested inferring "who he was";
3. He asserted that the arresting officer should have known the vehicle was from "his dealership" and this should have influenced Linebaugh not to arrest her;
4. He wrongfully accused Trooper Linebaugh of targeting a select group of individuals, maybe him and his family;
5. He demanded that the Commander of Troop E ask Trooper Linebaugh whether he knew Braxton;
6. He intimidated Trooper Linebaugh to the degree that he caused the Trooper to express concern as to whether he was in trouble for making the arrest;

7. He accused Trooper Linebaugh of lying about not knowing "who he was". We assert that "who he was" has nothing to do with the crimes his daughter is accused of committing;
8. He lied to the Troop Commander claiming that Linebaugh knew "who he was" because he had bought a vehicle at his dealership. This was a false statement;
9. He inferred that the Trooper should be fired for lying;
10. He threatened that he would not help the Trooper if his job required him to appear before the Commission. We take this as an expression of a clear threat not only against Trooper Linebaugh but also other Troopers appearing before the Commission and assert that under these circumstances that it is highly unlikely that any Trooper will receive a fair and impartial hearing before Mr. Braxton;
11. Mr. Braxton threatened Captain Oliphant that he would contact Col. Edmonson and that he was not through with this issue again inferring his position gave him power and authority to intervene;
12. A week after the arrest, he again contacted Captain Oliphant demanding to know what he "planned to do" to Trooper Linebaugh;
13. He insisted Trooper Linebaugh be transferred from his home area in Central Louisiana to New Orleans to "get his mind right";
14. He continued to complain about Trooper Linebaugh being "out of control". This calls to question whether it was Mr. Braxton that was of control;
15. Mr. Braxton told Captain Oliphant that Sheriff Victor Jones also wanted Trooper Linebaugh reassigned from Natchitoches Parish. This was also false. Sheriff Jones has stated he never told Braxton any such thing;
16. He stated that he had spoken with other members of the State Police Commission and they were "not to be touched";
17. He made repeated calls demanding that Trooper Linebaugh be reassigned.
18. He stated if he did not have more "stroke" he was unsure what he would do, thus again threatening to use his position to the detriment of our members;
19. He has repeatedly attempted to use the authority of his position on the State Police Commission to obtain what he apparently feels he deserves by virtue of the position he holds and the "stroke" he expects to have; and
20. No member of the State Police can feel comfortable and expect to receive fair and impartial treatment from this man. He has abused his office and cannot continue to serve in a position of public authority.

We respectfully request that you immediately have specifications of charges prepared and served on Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. and that after a public hearing that he be removed from office for cause. We suggest he not be allowed to participate or vote on Commission matters until these charges are resolved.

Yours truly,

AVANT & FALCON

Floyd J. Falcon, Jr.

FJFJr,hmf
cc: Cathy Derbonne
State Police Commission Members
Col. Michael Edmonson
Taylor Townsend
Lenore Feesney
Jay O'Quinn