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John J. McNesby, **President**

Robert B. Ballentine, **Recording Secretary**

Philadelphia Inquirer
Editorial Board
400 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19130

RE: June 12, 2011 Editorial

Dear Editor:

While I was flattered by your June 12, 2011 editorial proclaiming the political power that I supposedly wield, the substance of the editorial regarding the continuation of DROP benefits for the Philadelphia Police Officers could not be less accurate.

The "facts" that you proclaim in the editorial were, in reality, disjointed half truths linked clumsily together with unsupported opinion. As I stated during the course of my testimony before City Council (that you apparently never read), regardless of what problem you may or may not have with the DROP program in Philadelphia, it is working precisely as intended and contemplated for Philadelphia Police Officers.

The much heralded and now thoroughly discredited Boston college study acknowledged that the DROP program has not substantively affected the retirement age of Philadelphia police officers - the key economic factor in the DROP program. The Bolten study of February, 2011 took it one step further, it makes clear that the participation of Philadelphia police officers of DROP may very well actually save the City some money. Finally, at last week's hearing itself before City Counsel, the Bolten Partners spokesman publicly admitted that no part of the cost, if any, of DROP can be attributed to Philadelphia Police Officers.

Stated simply and finally, there exists no rational basis to deprive Philadelphia Police Officers of the benefit of a pension benefit that works both to their advantage and that of the public. Without mentioning these now undisputed facts, you condemn City Council for a decision that, unlike your editorial, is grounded firmly in the facts rather than hysteria.

The First Amendment is a precious right that many of our members fought to preserve. Implicit in that right is the responsibility of those exercising it to base opinion, however extreme, on facts. To the extent that you make no effort to address the absence of any DROP cost attributable to the participation of the Philadelphia police officer, your editorial of June 12, 2011 substitutes baseless sensationalism for hard fact and, for that reason, did a great disservice to those of us who cherish the First Amendment and to the citizens of Philadelphia.

Very truly yours,

John J McNesby, President
Philadelphia, Lodge #5
Fraternal Order of Police

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