

FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



LOCAL No. 36
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of FIRE FIGHTERS



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February 7, 2012

Dear Members:

I want to use this opportunity to clarify the position of Local 36 as it relates to the recent warning by Deputy Fire Chief Larry Jackson regarding the "off duty" activities of District Fire Fighters.

On February 4, 2012, I was made aware of a conference call conducted by the Deputy Chief of Operations and all on duty Battalion Fire Chiefs.

According to sources who were included in the conference call, the message was direct and to the point.

Chief Jackson advised that any member who attends the Mayor's State of the District speech and exhibits any form of disrespect or insubordination, will be dealt with swift punitive action. Actions displayed, like that of last week during the Fire Chief's speech will not be tolerated. Members involved will face punishment for exhibiting such insubordination.

I immediately reached out to Chief Ellerbe and Deputy Mayor Quander to validate this information. Through a series of E-mail exchanges, Chief Ellerbe contends the message was taken out of context and was poorly conveyed to the membership.

In my final e-mail exchange, I requested Chief Ellerbe to immediately issue a clear and concise written message that correctly explains his position for our members off duty activities.

As of today's date, February 6, 2012, no written clarification on the chief's position issue has been received by Local 36.

As your union president, it has been my goal to communicate clearly and concisely to our membership the views of your executive leadership.

Specifically, I will never ask for any member(s) to forego their first amendment right to free speech.

As in the past, Local 36 will defend our members when such attempts are made to stifle their ability to express their views.

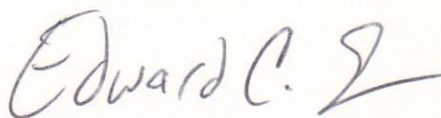
Collectively speaking, we have been disappointed with Mayor Gray and his administration.

In the February 3, 2012, Issue of "INTERNAL FOCUS", Information For and About DC Government Employees, Mayor Gray announced he will be delivering the 2012 State of the District Address.

He will be reporting on the status of the city and his administration and outline his agenda and priorities for the coming year. The event is open to the public and seats are available on a first – come, first served basis.

My only request, for those members who choose to accept the Mayor's invitation to attend the State of the District Address, is that you be **respectful** and conduct yourself in the **highest professional manner** as you do every time you assume duty.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward C. Smith". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Edward C. Smith
President