



North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police

16 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC 28786

www.ncacp.org 828-490-4611

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bill Hollingsed Phone 919-999-6837

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Fred Baggett

OFFICERS

Chief Dan House

Immediate Past President

NCSU Police Dept

Chief David L. Hess

President

Roxboro Police Dept

Chief Eddie Buffaloe

First Vice President

Elizabeth City Police Dept

Chief Jeff Smythe

Second Vice President

Burlington Police Dept

Chief Damon Williams

Secretary

Taylortown Police Dept

Chief Ken Shultz

Sergeant-At-Arms

High Point Police Dept

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region I

Chief Shawn Freeman

Black Mountain Police Dept

Region II

Chief Dana Crawford

Boone Police Dept

Region III

Chief James Wilson

Norwood Police Dept

Region IV

Chief Catrina Thompson

Winston Salem Police Dept

Region V

Chief Toby Harrison

Haw River Police Dept

Region VI

Chief Ronnie Patterson

Red Springs Police Dept

Region VII

Chief Blair Myhand

Clayton Police Dept

Region VIII

Chief Paul Burdette

Beaufort Police Dept

Region IX

Chief Henry King

Edenton Police Dept

Region X

Chief John Cueto

Duck Police Dept

May 10, 2020

To the Honorable Governor Roy Cooper

Dear Governor Cooper:

The North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police respectfully requests that Executive Order No. 138 be amended to allow worship services with restrictions similar to those applying to the operation of retail businesses.

Law enforcement is directed to enforce this Executive Order, which entails interpreting and explaining it to citizens in order to gain voluntary compliance and avoid defiance of it. The dictates of Executive Order 138 relating to worship services cannot be explained or justified to our citizens, and attempted enforcement engenders disrespect and lack of trust in law enforcement and the State.

Under the Order, retail businesses are allowed to operate every day for unlimited hours under rules that are significantly more liberal than those applying to periodic and comparatively brief worship services, which appears illogical and unfair from the standpoint of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Freedom of religious worship embodied in the U.S. and N. C. Constitutions is held dear by our citizens and cannot be diminished with unreasonable and unjustified disparate treatment in law.

If Executive Order 138 is amended to allow worship services with reasonable restrictions comparable to retail businesses, law enforcement's ability to maintain trust and legitimacy would be greatly enhanced. Religious leaders who desire to err on the side of caution for their congregation could choose more stringent guidance for their place of worship under the amended the order, similar to retail store policies.

Police Chiefs share your concern over public safety, and are mindful of their duty to enforce the law, but we respectfully and urgently request that Executive Order 138 be modified immediately to amend the restrictions on worship services to conform to understandable parameters that are no more onerous than those imposed on retail businesses.

Respectfully,

David L. Hess

Chief of Police

NCACP President 2020