

## Statement of STFA President Dave Jones on ticket rumor

“It is unfortunate that a certain segment of the media has found it necessary to perpetrate misrepresentations that jeopardize public safety and calls into question the validity of the lawful authority of all law enforcement officers on the road. I therefore feel it is critical to set the record straight about this rumor.

The e-mail bulletin board provided to members of the State Troopers Fraternal Association has been compromised. The idea that the State Police or any law enforcement officer would engage in a ticket writing assault and/or slowdown on the public is false and without any merit. Such activity would never and has never been endorsed. Nothing written on that bulletin board, which is anonymous, can be taken as fact or as the opinion of the STFA as a result of the postings of authorized and unauthorized individuals.

The spreading of this rumor by certain media outlets will have one result: that of causing dissension and confrontation between police and the public. This prevarication has the potential to turn traffic stops into debates that could place an officer at risk of serious confrontation. Police officers and Troopers are professional and well trained to avoid and diffuse confrontation but this story serves no purpose but to create an “us versus them” mentality. Trying to invent this line of thinking for the purpose of creating a controversy will only incite risky behavior. In fact, statistics show that any incident that extends a stop on the side of the road places both officer and motorist at risk for injury. We hope that the promotion of this story does not result in any serious injuries.

It is grossly irresponsible for media outlets to print or repeat anonymous and baseless comments from a blog as fact. I am therefore calling on all responsible media outlets to stop declaring this distortion as fact out of respect for the well being and protection of the law enforcement community and the public alike.”