

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Democratic Members
FROM: Representative Jewell Williams
DATE: February 16, 2011
RE: Proposed Legislation – Identity of Witnesses in Certain Cases

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would make the penalty greater for individuals who file false police reports based on discrimination. My legislation is similar to a bill introduced last session – former House Bill 1872.

False police reports are often filed throughout the state, and individuals who do so waste precious law enforcement time that could have been better spent by protecting our neighborhoods and solving crimes. Making the offense even worse are the individuals who file false police reports with malicious intent to discredit a specific race, skin color, religion, national origin, ethnic group or gender. These unfounded allegations are tantamount to discrimination. Perpetrators of these malicious acts deserve a harsher punishment under the law for not only lying to law enforcement, but also for wasting our law enforcement's time and other resources. To combat this serious problem, my legislation would allow prosecuting officials to charge the offenders with a greater penalty for false police reporting based on discrimination.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Ashley Jere' Roach via e-mail at aroach@pahouse.net. Thank you.