



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

CHICAGO LODGE #7

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Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools Headquarters
42 W. Madison
Chicago IL 60602

September 2, 2017

Dear Ms. Jackson,

On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge, I am writing to you about the educational initiative launched this school year in the Chicago Public Schools regarding Jon Burge and the Chicago Police Department.

While the Chicago FOP finds any coercion of any sort in the course of a criminal investigation repugnant and a violation of our sworn oath to serve and protect, we also believe that the whole truth about this subject of police misconduct may not be reflected accurately in your curriculum, nor in the manner through which it came into being. As educators and public servants, we both have an obligation to present the entire scope of this subject to our children in a truly objective light without bias, so that the students can form reasonable, informed conclusions based on actual facts placed in an accurate context. Failing to do so may cause far more harm than good, regardless of anyone's intentions.

As Second Vice President of the FOP and a published writer, I am in a unique position to address a perspective sorely lacking in your newly launched Burge course. I have been researching and writing about this subject for more than seven years. I have published one book and am about to publish a second exploring the allegations against Jon Burge and other Chicago detectives. My first book on this subject, *Crooked City*, played a central role in the release of a man from prison and uncovered evidence of wrongdoing in the wrongful conviction movement in general.

I believe the CPS has an obligation to present the evidence of police wrongdoing accurately, but is failing with the Burge curriculum. Few of the CPS staff or the public are aware, for example, that Jon Burge was convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice for his sworn answers to written interrogatories—prepared by his attorney—during a civil case. The plaintiff in that civil case, Madison Hobley, had been pardoned by Illinois Governor George Ryan, in January, 2003, before Ryan was then indicted by federal prosecutors for 22 counts of bribery, racketeering, extortion, money laundering, and tax fraud. Hobley had been convicted of setting a fire that killed seven people on the south side in 1987, including his own wife and child. The evidence against Hobley was overwhelming, and neither he nor his attorneys were ever able to convince a judge or a prosecutor of his innocence.

There is also little evidence that Hobley, who confessed twice, was abused by investigating detectives, who had no motive whatsoever to frame a man who had just lost his own wife and child in a horrific fire. There is ample evidence that Hobley is guilty and his appeals were repeatedly rejected, even by the Illinois Supreme Court. Additionally, there was evidence disclosed during the trial that Hobley confessed to the murders repeatedly to a fellow death row inmate, Darryl Simms.

I believe most CPS staff members, members of the community, and students would be as appalled at the abuse of a suspect and framing him for a crime like rape or murder as they would be of a corrupt governor releasing a mass murderer from prison based upon the murderer's false claims of police misconduct.

Yet will your staff present students with the facts of the Hobley case in proper context of the Burge torture allegations? Will they be taught that Madison Hobley confessed twice to the murders? Will the students be taught that many of the alleged torture and other claims of police misconduct have been proven demonstrably false?

THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF CHICAGO'S PATROL OFFICERS



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I would, therefore, propose that you allow my colleagues and me the equal opportunity to address your staff and students about the important topic of police brutality during the Burge era.

Sincerely,

Martin Preib