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February 9, 2016

Representative/Chairman Rick Golick
218 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Pretrial Proceedings LC 29 6900ER

Dear Representative/Chairman Golick:

After a careful review of LC 29 6900ER, relating to pretrial proceedings concerning public officers and employees, the suggested language appears to be very suitable to law enforcement managers and professionals.

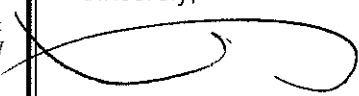
The above statement is being said, in part, because Georgia is the only state that allows a law enforcement officer and some other public officials to appear before a grand jury to make an unsworn statement and, at the end of their presentment, not be subject to questioning. Considering the current climate surrounding law enforcement and public officials in general, coupled with some community suspicions that law enforcement officers receive preferential treatment, it is time for the changes suggested in the above noted legislative council number.

The area of the proposed bill, with respect to court recording of the statement of an officer appearing before the grand jury, or the recording after the officer is sworn, as well as the ability of the District Attorney and members of the grand jury to ask questions of the officer, adds a measure of fairness to grand jury proceedings in the State of Georgia. Furthermore, these changes will treat an officer the same as any other witness coming before the grand jury. It also subjects the officer to perjury penalties for false statements, the same as any other witnesses. Additionally, these proposed modifications in law, may assist in adding transparency to grand jury proceedings involving law enforcement officers which will surely help to restore public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Therefore, I am pleased to affirm that you have the full support of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police with respect to the passage of LC 29 6900ER or any bill with similar language.

I respectfully submit this letter to you by the direction of the GACP President, Chief George N. Turner and the other members of the GACP Executive Board.

Sincerely,



Frank Vincent Rotondo
GACP Executive Director

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