



NORTH CAROLINA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Randy L. Hagler
State President

Lynn S. Wilson
State Secretary

April 1, 2020

Via Hand Delivery & U.S. Mail
The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III
Governor of North Carolina
2031 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

Thank you for your extraordinary leadership during this ongoing crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the guidance you have shown keeping the citizens of North Carolina informed and safe. The men and women of law enforcement are also working to make sure those we serve are adequately cared for during this unprecedented crisis.

We are especially thankful for your action yesterday in clarifying the COVID-19 testing protocol by the State Laboratory for Public Health for first responders who may have been exposed to the virus. In so doing you have recognized that our first responders are on the front lines every day with potential exposure to COVID-19 patients.

Along this same line, we have a further request of you. Although we take every precaution available, the risk of a firefighter, law enforcement officer, or EMS worker being infected with COVID-19 is exponentially greater than those in the general population. Therefore, we respectfully request that you issue an Executive Order, or direct the Industrial Commission to issue emergency rules, stating first responders who are either confirmed or suspected of contracting COVID-19 shall be eligible for benefits under North Carolina Workers' Compensation Law, and such illness or injury is recognized as an occupational disease and presumed to have been contracted in the line of duty unless it can be exclusively proven that the exposure only occurred off-duty.

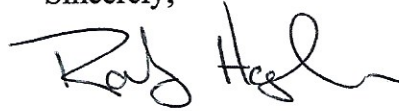
We would also ask, as a minimum, the following situations meet the criteria to be

eligible for benefits:

- (a) The first responder is quarantined at the direction of his or her employer due to any suspected COVID-19 exposure or the display of any COVID-19 symptoms, or
- (b) The first responder receives a presumptive positive COVID-19 test, or
- (c) The first responder receives a COVID-19 diagnosis from a physician, or
- (d) The first responder receives a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

On behalf of the 6,000 members of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police and more than 20,000 law enforcement officers serving we thank you for your consideration in this urgent matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist or support you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Hagler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Hagler
President, North Carolina State Lodge,
Fraternal Order of Police