

# National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Expresses Concern over South Carolina School Resource Officer's Action But Applauds the Quick and Appropriate Departmental Response**

**[Alexandria, VA]** The recent physical encounter between a school resource enforcement officer and a student from Spring Valley High School in South Carolina, has taken center stage in the ongoing national narrative of building trust between the community and the police. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) does not condone the methods deployed by Deputy Sheriff Ben Fields, in his efforts to restrain and take the student into custody. We also believe that this inherent disciplinary matter could have been better handled by school staff, thereby eliminating the need to summon police services.

We do however, applaud Richland County Sheriff, Leon Lott, for his decisive response in terminating Deputy Sheriff Fields for his inappropriate conduct during the course of his response and we will be paying close attention to any and all forthcoming information of the ongoing investigation being conducted by federal and state law enforcement officials.

“The executive board and the international membership of NOBLE are concerned by the deputy’s actions but value the important role that school resource officers perform in protecting the students, staff, and visitors of school districts across this country,” stated Clarence E. Cox, NOBLE National Second Vice President, and Chief of Police for the Clayton County School District in Clayton County, Georgia.

## **About the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives**

Since 1976, The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. NOBLE represents over 3,000 members internationally, who are primarily African-American chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies at federal, state, county and municipal levels, other law enforcement administrators, and criminal justice practitioners. For more information, visit [www.noblenational.org](http://www.noblenational.org).

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