

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

courtesy • service • protection since 1935

DPS INVESTIGATES ALLEGATIONS

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Department of Public Safety today was made aware through media sources that state Rep. Alvin Holmes has requested that the U.S. Attorney General launch an investigation of the Alabama Department of Public Safety and all other city and county law enforcement agencies in Alabama for racial profiling.

Upon receipt of a copy of Holmes' letter to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage ordered an immediate investigation into Holmes' allegations that a state trooper issued a citation to a violator and listed his race as white, when in fact the violator was black.

Coppage in a letter to Holmes requested that Holmes provide the Department of Public Safety with "any and all reports or documentation that involve members of the Alabama Department of Public Safety that reflect the 'pattern and practice and a course of conduct'" described by Holmes. Coppage reminded Holmes that, as director, he instituted a "biased-based policing" policy that prohibits any form of racial discrimination or profiling.

Coppage said that when made aware of the error on the citation, the trooper involved corrected the citation and turned in the accurate information to the clerk's office in St. Clair County where the citation was issued.

Coppage stated that the investigation continues, and the findings will be made available to Holmes in a spirit of cooperation that he hopes will address any of Holmes' concerns.

2-7-05



for more information contact:

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>