



## Montgomery County Lodge 35, Inc.

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FOP Press Release

### Montgomery County Police Officers Laud Appeals Courts Ruling

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“We are pleased that Montgomery County voters will decide the issue of collective bargaining this November,” said **Torrie Cooke**, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 35.

“This issue is about the rights of police officers to collectively bargain over issues critical to their families – so-called effects bargaining - which influences schedules, promotions, and transfers. It has been in place in Montgomery County for 30 years and worked well. Those who trivialize such collective bargaining by saying it applies to police officers checking their email are demeaning what we do to preserve public safety,” said **Cooke**.

**Nearly** 40,000 signatures were collected to put the issue on the ballot and **over 34,000** were certified by the **County** Board of Elections. In an effort to prevent citizens from voting on the referendum the County Council took it to court.

“Over \$250,000 of taxpayers’ money was spent – wasted really -- to thwart the will of the people,” said **Torrie Cooke**. “The County Council lost their appeal and the people of Montgomery County lost over a quarter of a million of their tax dollars.”

Now the voters will decide the issue this November.