



To: Concerned Citizens
From: Councilman Franklin D. Moss
Date: July 14, 2009
Re: Rainbow Lounge

I would like to concur with my fellow Councilmember's Joel Burns, Kathleen Hicks, Sal Espino and Mayor Moncrief in support of a full investigation of the incident that occurred on the morning of June 28, 2009 at the Rainbow Lounge. I will be out of the city on July 14, 2009 and I assure you that I am as concerned that all citizens of Fort Worth are treated with respect and dignity regardless of their race, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

Chief Halstead is aware of my concerns. I have expressed to Chief Halstead the need for more training of our officers in handling situations with the citizens of Fort Worth to assure that they are treated which respect and dignity.

I am pleased that so many people around Fort Worth, Texas and around the country have come forward to express their concerns about this matter. However, I am just as concerned about several other situations that have occurred in which African-American citizens have been involved with the Fort Worth Police Department. In one incident a young man died during an episode while being taken into custody by the police who was tased by the police. There is a full and on going investigation to determine if the action taken by the police caused his death. In another situation, a young African-American man was tased multiple times and arrested by the Fort Worth Police Department. Also, a young man who was stopped on July 4, 2009 by the Fort Worth Police Department was treated in a manner that concerned some citizens.

I believe that it is important that our councilmember's and citizens of Fort Worth support our police force, but it is as critically important that our officers act in a way that the rights of all citizens are protected.

I join the Mayor, my fellow Councilmember's and citizens in requesting a thorough investigation of the Rainbow Lounge incident and any other case in which the rights of citizens have been violated. I support the request of a full investigation of other cases in which there are questions about the rights of citizens that have been violated because of their race, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

Frank Moss