

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman released the following statement today regarding the New Jersey State Police:

"I am concerned about reports that morale among State Troopers is down. Unfortunately, our troopers are getting caught in the crossfire of what has become a partisan, political attack directed at me.

"The men and women of the State Police put their lives on the line every day and every night to protect the people of New Jersey. It is wrong for those who are trying to score partisan points to smear the reputations of the vast majority of troopers who do their jobs and do them well.

"If people suddenly have questions about how my administration is handling allegations of racial profiling, that's fine - it comes with the turf. But I am concerned when these clearly partisan attacks bring into question the integrity and professionalism of the entire State Police force, as well as all other law enforcement officers.

"I hope that those who are launching these partisan attacks will realize they are putting the public safety at risk. Reckless, unsubstantiated assaults on the integrity of the entire State Police force can only undermine public confidence. That, in turn, will undermine the State Police's ability to keep the people of this state safe from crime.

"We must be careful not to risk the enormous progress we have made in the fight against crime by carelessly calling into question the honor of all state troopers. I am determined to ensure that the State Police deserve and receive the confidence and support of all the many faces of our one family. And I hope all those state troopers who make New Jersey proud know that they have my full confidence and my deep appreciation for the job they do."