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## Democrat won't keep defending North Carolina voter ID law

**By Gary D. Robertson**  
RALEIGH (AP) - North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper will no longer defend the state's voter ID law, now that a federal appeals court has ruled it was passed with "discriminatory intent."

A 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel blocked its enforcement, ruling that the Republican-led General Assembly made changes that targeted black voters more likely to support Democrats.

"Attorneys with our office put forward their best arguments but the court found that the law was intentional discrimination and we will not appeal," Cooper spokeswoman Noelle Talley said in an email.

Barring some new court intervention, the appellate ruling means the law's restrictions will not be in place for this year's presidential election. The ID mandate is now gone and early voting restored to 17 days, up from 10. Same-day registration during early voting and the partial counting of out-of-precinct ballots resume permanently.

The decision by the office of the Democratic challenger to Republican Gov. Pat McCrory doesn't end the case, however. The governor and GOP legislative leaders are planning appeals using taxpayer funds to pay their own lawyers, some of them in private practice. McCrory said their next appeal could be to the full 4th Circuit or to the U.S. Supreme Court.

McCrory said Cooper should stop taking his state salary if he won't defend state agencies. The governor and legislative leaders reject arguments that the law was meant to discriminate, saying voter ID is supported by most voters, who want to protect the integrity of the election.

### Butterfield Presents NCCU with \$480,000 USDA Grant to Expand Opportunities in Rural Areas

Washington, DC - Congressman G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) presented a \$480,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to North Carolina Central University in Durham. The funds will be used to purchase video conferencing equipment for 11 end-user sites, including libraries and community centers, to connect residents with services commonly unavailable in rural areas.

"Expanding educational resources to all North Carolina residents will require a digital pipeline that connects individuals virtually," said Butterfield. "USDA's investment will expand access to the latest information and services to households throughout North Carolina. I applaud USDA for selecting North Carolina Central University as a recipient for this critical investment."

USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program announced investments in 81 distance learning and telemedicine projects in over 32 states. The projects will help connect rural communities with medical and educational experts in other parts of the country to offer increased access to health care, substance misuse treatment, and advanced educational opportunities.

**At right Rep. Butterfield, right, makes presentation.**

process. "We think it is the proper law and it's amazing that the attorney general will not fulfill the responsibility of his oath of office to defend our laws of North

Carolina," McCrory told reporters.

Speaking earlier Aug. 2, Cooper noted that the court found that McCrory and Republican leaders passed a law to prevent

certain people from registering and voting. "The governor is wasting taxpayer money in trying to defend the indefensible," his campaign spokesman Ford Porter added in a statement.



North Carolina Central University officials announced Aug. 8 that his concern over the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old led him to strip three officers of their police powers and that the district in which the shooting happened had received body cameras about a week prior.

### Chicago cops: Body cameras new to district where O'Neal shot

**By Don Babwin**

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Police Department's superintendent said Aug. 6 that his concern over the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old led him to strip three officers of their police powers and that the district in which the shooting happened had received body cameras about a week prior.

At a news conference, Superintendent Eddie Johnson addressed the nine videos - both from dashcams and body cameras - that were released Aug. 5 of the July 28 shooting. The videos show officers firing repeatedly at a stolen car as it careens down the street away from them and later handcuffing a wounded Paul O'Neal, who was driving the car, after a chaotic foot chase through a residential neighborhood.

"I was concerned by some of the things that I saw on the videos and that's why we took such a swift action ... that we did last week to relieve the three officers of their police powers," Johnson said, adding he could not explain what specifically concerned him.

The news conference came the same day that protesters planned a rally and march, which was originally slated to start at the Chicago park where 50 years ago Martin Luther King Jr. called for fair housing but was moved a few blocks away at the request of organizers of a festival related to a newly unveiled King memorial in Marquette Park.

Johnson has said the officers, who he noted Aug. 6 received the same training as the rest of the department, violated a department policy. Authorities have neither detailed the specific policy, nor identified the officers.

In February 2015, former Superintendent Garry McCarthy revised the department's policy on the use of deadly force to prohibit officers from "firing at or into a moving vehicle when the vehicle is the only force used against the sworn member or another person." But the policy also says that officers "will not unreasonably endanger themselves or another person to conform to the restrictions of this directive," meaning they have the right to defend themselves if they or someone else are in imminent danger of being struck.

Friday's video release was the first of a fatal police shooting under a new policy that calls for such material to be made public within 60 days. That and other policy changes represent an effort to restore public confidence in the department after video released last year showed a black teenager named Laquan McDonald getting shot 16 times by a white officer.

The McDonald video sparked protests and led to the ouster of the former police superintendent. The officer who shot him is now awaiting trial on murder charges.

The head of the Independent Police Review Authority, the agency that investigates Chicago police misconduct, called the footage of the O'Neal shooting "shocking and disturbing." She did not elaborate Aug. 6.

Attorney Michael Oppenheimer, who represents O'Neal's family, said Aug. 6 that the video showed officers taking "street justice into their own hands."

The department is going to look at changing training for officers and look at best practices around the country, Bureau of Professional Standards chief Anne Kirkpatrick said at the news conference.

A memorial for King's Aug. 5, 1966, march was unveiled Aug. 6 at Marquette Park. A march and festival were scheduled for Aug. 6, with The Rev. Jesse Jackson and Ilyasah Al-Shabazz among the speakers, and Rakim, Vic Mensa and Brother Ali among the slate of performers.

Online:  
Memorial: <http://www.mlkmemorialchicago.org/>  
Festival: <http://streets2016.com/>



Members of the Durham Branch of the NAACP with Mrs. Bonnetta Ferguson-Poole at Roses at North Duke Mall.

### Senior Citizen Says She Was Humiliated, Demoralized by Roses Store Manager

**By Tracie Fellers  
Correspondent**

Timberlake resident Bonnetta Ferguson-Poole just wants respect — in the form of a public apology from a manager at the Roses discount store in Durham's North Duke Mall.

Ferguson-Poole, a retired social services worker and child advocate, said she was humiliated after store manager Bob Stearns publicly and falsely accused her of switching price tags on an outfit in the store on April 20. "I want everybody to know what this man has done and his attitude toward the public and toward customers," she said in a phone interview. "One thing I was always taught was respect. You give it and you earn it ... and I think he owes me that."

According to Ferguson-Poole, she was shopping in the North Duke Mall store, as she has on a regular basis, when she noticed a ladies' dress suit that would make a good addition to her wardrobe for church. "I found this suit on the clearance rack. It was yellow and it was marked at \$12," she said.

However, when the suit rang up at \$39.99 in the register, Ferguson-Poole told the cashier that \$12 was the amount on the outfit's price tag. After the cashier consulted with her supervisor, "she came back and said the wrong price was on it," Ferguson-Poole said. "I said it was marked \$12, so they had to give it to me for \$12." At that time, Stearns was called in, she said. He talked with the supervisor, then accused Ferguson of switching the tag on the suit — a misdemeanor in the same category as shoplifting under state law.

"He said, 'I'm so sick of you people coming in here and switching my tags,'" then started to yell at Ferguson-Poole, continuing to raise his voice, she recalled. Appalled by Stearns' behavior, Ferguson-Poole said she vividly remembers his words: "You can just go somewhere else and shop. Just get out of my store."

More than two months later, Ferguson-Poole is still upset about how she was treated in the North Duke Roses store, and about the company's apparent disregard for her request for an apology from Stearns. "I'm still appalled," she said. "You can't profile me like that. I've worked 41 years of my life; how dare you disrespect me."

"I have receipts where I spent thousands of dollars at that particular store for dress suits for myself and my mother over the Christmas holidays (of 2014)," she added. "Yes, I feel like I deserve the apology, and I want to make sure that (Stearns) never disrespects anyone else the way he disrespected me."

Recently reached by phone at the North Duke Roses store, Stearns said he was unable to comment about Ferguson-Poole's complaint about the April 20 incident and referred The Carolina Times to Roses' legal department. However, Ferguson-Poole said she has taken no legal action against the store or its parent company, although she is considering that option. "I will continue to pursue until I get my apology, if I have to go to (WTVD's) Troubleshooter or the legal system."

And immediately after leaving the Roses store (Continued On Page 14)

