

# GRAND FORKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER**

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**To: House Transportation Members**  
**From: Sheriff Andy Schneider**  
**RE: HB 1409**  
**Date: 2/4/2021**

**Chair Ruby and House Transportation members,**

**My name is Andy Schneider, and I have the privilege and honor of being the Sheriff of Grand Forks County. I come before you today to give testimony regarding why I am opposed to HB 1409 as written.**

**This proposed bill brings forth concerns regarding community oriented policing and proactive patrolling efforts that are performed by our Office, and likely others in the State.**

- **The bill adds language requiring individuals to yield to emergency vehicles displaying “a steady red or red and blue lamp”.**
- **Our office and other agencies utilize steady red and blue lights for proactive patrol.**
  - **Deputies will drive through smaller towns, alleys, and commercial areas with steady red and blue lights to provide high visibility.**
  - **This light pattern is commonly referred to as ‘cruiser mode’.**
  - **This allows us to provide high visibility patrol for two reasons:**
    - **Citizens are able to observe the vehicle in their neighborhood is law enforcement.**
    - **Criminal activity is deterred with a visible presence of law enforcement in the area.**
- **When we are utilizing this mode we are not requesting individuals to stop/yield the roadway to us.**
- **The proposed language would restrict officers from using steady red and/or blue lights specifically because proactive patrol is not an emergency and they are not requesting individuals to yield to them.**

**The current version of this bill will create a potential setback of proactive policing opportunities for law enforcement. I would respectfully ask that the committee consider removing the language referring to “a steady red or red and blue lamp”. Thank you for your time and your service to the state.**

**Andy Schneider**  
**Sheriff, Grand Forks County**  
**andrew.schneider@gfcounty.org**