

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. Washington and Jurisdiction



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Office of the
Most Worshipful Grand Master
GARDNER M. TORRENCE SR.



RESIDENCE

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OCTOBER 29, 2011

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers.

SUBJECT: **EDICT: HAZING DURING CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

In previous years you have received letters from the Office of the Grand Master regarding hazing. This is merely an update.

Candidates undergoing the symbolic degrees have in some cases been physically abused. Whether the cause was over-zealousness by some Master Masons or the lack of knowledge on proper and approved initiation techniques, **any abuse will cease immediately.**

Worshipful Masters will ensure that their degree teams are aware of any special or prohibiting medical condition(s) a candidate may have which could become aggravated during the conferring of degrees and take appropriate precautions.

The risk of liability to your lodge and the Grand Lodge is of great concern. What is even more important is the physical and/or mental abuse to the candidate. There are other methods of ensuring that the integrity and meaning of each degree is communicated without the physical abuse of a candidate.

Therefore I am directing that each Worshipful Master or Brother presiding over the conferring of degrees shall read, or cause to be read this hazing letter prior to the performance of any degree work. Worshipful Masters or presiding officers will be held accountable. This will remain in effect until further notice.

This correspondence **will be read at your next two consecutive lodge communications.** Should you have questions regarding this correspondence, contact your District Deputy Grand Master. Additionally, the Grand Lecturer and Executive Grand Officers are available.

You are to take ~~notice~~ due notice of the contents of this communication and govern yourselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of October 2011.

GARDNER M. TORRENCE SR.
Grand Master of Masons

