

# The Dallas Morning News

## North Texas state lawmaker to be dishonorably discharged from DPD after ‘no contest’ plea

**McKinney GOP Rep. Frederick Frazier appeared in the Collin County Courthouse to plead no contest to misdemeanor charges of attempting to impersonate a public servant.**

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McKINNEY — McKinney GOP Rep. Frederick Frazier pleaded no contest Tuesday to two misdemeanor charges of attempting to impersonate a public servant.

Frazier, a Dallas police officer and freshman lawmaker, appeared in the Collin County Courthouse in a suit and orange tie around 10 a.m. to enter his plea. In the plea deal, he was given one year of deferred adjudication probation and two fines of about \$4,000 each, the maximum penalty for the Class A misdemeanors.

After the proceedings, Frazier briskly left the courtroom with his attorney and entered a conference room, where he appeared to be meeting with a probation officer. He did not come out to speak with reporters. Instead, he issued a written statement later saying the process has been “long and ridiculous” and revolved around four signs his opponent placed “in violation of various ordinances.”

“I am ready to put this dispute aside,” Frazier said. “I am very happy to have this 2-year-old issue behind me. At the end of the process, my record will remain clear. I remain committed to serving the people of Collin County.”

The proceedings happened one day after Dallas police confirmed Frazier submitted his intent to retire while under investigation from the department. The retirement would be made official if approved by his chain of command.

Dallas police Assistant Chief Monique Alex, one of the department’s highest ranking officials, left a voicemail to the complainant in the case stating Frazier would receive a dishonorable discharge because he chose to retire while under investigation, according to a recording of the message.

His attorney Robert Rogers said the calls for Frazier to resign are “stupid.” Frazier filed for re-election last month.

“He’s not resigning,” Rogers told reporters after the proceedings. “This is a blip on the radar screen. This whole thing started as politics. They want to make it politics. We’re putting it to bed.

“This was a distraction. At the end of the day, Fred didn’t need this distraction and he’s ready to move on.”

Gretchen Grigsby, a spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, said in an email that a dishonorable discharge is visible to a subsequent agency when making hiring decisions. A second such discharge could result in more serious consequences for Frazier’s law enforcement license.

Prosecutors have said Frazier also intended to plead guilty to criminal mischief, a Class C misdemeanor, and will face a fine of about \$500. Rogers said they handled that case and paid a fee online.

A Collin County grand jury indicted Frazier on two third-degree felony charges in June 2022 after Paul Chabot, Frazier’s opponent in the GOP runoff, reported to McKinney police that some of his campaign signs outside a Walmart were removed. Chabot has said store officials told him someone who said they were a McKinney code compliance officer asked them to tell Chabot his signs weren’t in compliance.

Chabot has said a city manager later told him no code compliance officer had been to the store. One of his signs was taken from the area near the store days later.

Frazier has previously denied wrongdoing, calling the case a political stunt. Rogers said Tuesday they still assert to this day that Frazier never said he was a code enforcement officer and there was “a miscommunication.”

Chabot, who sat in the courtroom gallery Tuesday, released a written statement calling for Frazier to be expelled from the Texas House of Representatives. He called the case the “George Santos moment for Texas,” referencing the New York Republican recently expelled from the U.S. House as the lies he offered to win his seat unraveled.

“The Texas we love deserves our best to lead us, and we must demand it for our children’s sake, leading by example with integrity,” Chabot said in the statement.

Two challengers for Frazier’s seat, Keresa Richardson and Chuck Branch, also appeared at the courthouse for the proceedings. Someone held up a sign outside the courthouse with Frazier’s name crossed out.

Frazier serves on the board of the Dallas Police Association and has been a law enforcement officer for about 28 years. Following the indictment, Dallas police placed him on administrative

leave and launched an internal investigation. A Dallas police spokesperson said Saturday the investigation was ongoing and Frazier has been on approved leave without pay. Frazier must step down from the Dallas Police Association board on his last day of active status with the department, said Sgt. Mike Mata, president of the association.

The first-term GOP lawmaker received the endorsement of former President Donald Trump ahead of the 2022 midterm election, helping him win an election despite being under indictment.

The Collin County representative was among the five area lawmakers who voted in May to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton, who represented the North Texas county in the House and Senate and still lives there.

The Senate, however, acquitted Paxton of all charges — which accused him of sweeping abuses — in September. Since then, Paxton has campaigned against lawmakers who supported his removal. Paxton endorsed Frazier's opponent, Chuck Branch, in the March 5 GOP primary election.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott recently endorsed Frazier for reelection when he threw his support behind 58 House Republicans who supported creating education savings accounts — one of his top priorities in 2023.

Abbott's campaign did not immediately respond to an email asking if the governor still supports Frazier for reelection.