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**MECKLENBURG JUDGE DECLARES SODOMY LAW
UNCONSTITUTIONAL** (*corrected copy*)

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Today, Mecklenburg District Court Judge Nate Proctor declared that the charge of Soliciting a Crime Against Nature under North Carolina law is “invalid on its face” and unconstitutional. The case involved a Charlotte man who was charged with discussing oral sex with a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer in a public park.

Proctor’s ruling came after hearing arguments by the Defendant’s attorney, Ray Warren of Charlotte, that the crime against nature law was unconstitutional in light of the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. After finding the law unconstitutional, Proctor dismissed the charges against the defendant.

The case is the first court test of North Carolina’s Crime Against Nature law since the Texas decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. While the decision is not binding on other state trial judges, it will probably be cited in similar cases. Should the State appeal the ruling to North Carolina’s appellate courts, however, a definitive and binding precedent could be established.

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