

**Minutes of the
TROY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 6, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this meeting was held remotely via videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Council President Mantello.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: The roll being called, the following answered to their names: Council Member Gulli, Council Member Ashe-McPherson, Council Member Steele, Council Member Cummings, Council Member Zalewski, Council Member McDermott, Council President Mantello, Chair.

In attendance were Deputy Mayor Monica Kurzejeski, Corporation Counsel Richard T. Morrissey, and Deputy Comptroller Andrew Piotrowski.

Council Member Zalewski made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the prior meeting and approve as posted.

Public Forum

Written statements were submitted and are appended to these minutes.

44. Ordinance Amending The 2020 General Fund Budget And Accepting Grand Funds From The Troy Capital Resource Corporation For The 2020 Neighborhood Improvement Program (Council President Mantello)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

45. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

46. Ordinance Amending The 2020 General Fund Budget To Accept Funds From The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services For The Purpose Of Gun Involved Violence Elimination (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

47. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 Sewer Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

48. Ordinance Authorizing The City To Create A Capital Project And Amending The Capital Projects Fund Budget To Allow Funding For Said Capital Project (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 1 no (Mantello), 0 abstentions.

49. Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Property As Surplus And Directing The Comptroller To Dispose Of Said Property (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

50. Ordinance Adopting The City Of Troy Returned Check Policy (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 1 no (Cummings), 0 abstentions.

51. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 Garbage Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

52. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 Water Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

53. Ordinance Amending The 2020 General Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

56. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 Garbage Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

57. Ordinance Authorizing The Allocation Of Neighborhood Improvement Project Funds (Council Member Steele, Council Member Gulli, Council Member Cummings, Council President Mantello)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

58. Ordinance Approving A Grant Of Easement To Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation And Verizon New York, Inc. (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

59. Ordinance Authorizing A Credit For Any Penalty Imposed On Payments Made To The City Of Troy Treasurer's Office On August 1, August 2, Or August 3, 2020 (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

60. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 General Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

72. Resolution Authorizing The City Of Troy To Impose A Service Charge For Returned Checks (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

73. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A 2019/2020 Stop-DWI Enforcement Crackdown Agreement With The County Of Rensselaer (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

74. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A 2020 Stop-DWI Enforcement Agreement With The County Of Rensselaer (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

75. Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York Amending Certain Prior Bond Resolutions Relating To The Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

76. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,600,000 Serial Bonds To Finance The Reconstruction And Improvement Of A City Parking Garage (Council Member Zalewski) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 1 no (Mantello), 0 abstentions.

77. A Resolution Authorizing The Issuance Of Up To \$3,300,000 In Revenue Anticipation Notes Of The City Of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York In Anticipation Of The Receipt Of Certain Revenue Due During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2020 (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

78. Resolution Accepting The Rubin Foundation Grant As Awarded By The Louis & Hortense Rubin Community Fellows Program (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

79. Resolution Of Troy City Council Authorizing The Change Of Traffic Direction On Jacob Street Between River And King Streets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

80. Resolution Of Troy City Council Authorizing The Change Of Traffic Direction On State Street Between First And Third Streets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution tabled 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

81. Resolution Of Troy City Council Authorizing The Change Of Traffic Direction On South River Street Between Main And Polk Streets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

82. Resolution Approving The City Clerk's Appointment Of Sharon Wells As Assistant To The City Clerk And Setting The Wages Of The Assistant To The City Clerk (Council Member Zalewski)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

83. Resolution Supporting The Chaptering Of New York State Legislature Bill A.9952b/S.7880b To Prohibit The Incineration Of Firefighting Foam Containing Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs) In Cohoes (Council Member Cummings)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos, 1 abstention (Mantello).

85. Resolution Appointing Commissioners Of Deeds For The City Of Troy (Council President Mantello)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

86. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement With Passport Labs, Inc. (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting is on file at the City Clerk's office.

August 6, 2020 Public Forum

1. Elizabeth Moran, NYPIRG & Troy resident
2. Joanne Morelli, Hoosick Street, Troy
3. Lisa Hollenbeck, 5th Ave
4. Angela Gavin. Tibbits Avenue
5. John VanAlstyne, Pawling Ave.
6. Francie Horton, Plum Ave
7. Lorraine Gould, Owner/Operator, Gould Family Daycare, New Turnpike Rd.
8. Lindsey Meyer, 7th Avenue
9. Thomas Vumbaco, 14th Street
10. Hal Smith and Kelly Smith, Hickory Court
11. Susan A McCabe, Hyland Drive
12. Mary D'Amico, Munro Court
13. Maryrose Calenzo-Santiago, 5th Avenue
14. Ned Alaskey, Hyland Drive
15. Sam Rivet, Dunham Street
16. Ron Fountain, Maple Avenue
17. Nancy Wright, 2nd Avenue
18. Carol Donnelly, Terrace Place
19. Raymond Dufresne, 2nd st
20. Dan Mahar, Hialeah Drive
21. Daniel McGreevy Jr., 5th Avenue
22. Alexander Zdonick, 109 2nd Ave
23. David C. Nicholas, MPH
24. Matthew Casey, 111th Street
25. Sandra Miele, Excelsior Avenue
26. Lori and Wendy McGarry, 6th Ave
27. Maureen Jensen, Bellview Road
28. Ish and Setrack Abdo, Hoosick Street
29. Erick Serrano , 4th Avenue
30. Jennifer Lopiano. 6th Avenue
31. Dean Bodnar, Brunswick Meadows Way, Troy 12182
32. Eugene St. John, 14th Street
33. Anne Hango Costa, Valley View Drive
34. Shannon Craven, 3rd Ave
35. Theron J. Maloney, Kinloch Avenue
36. Rick Rivet, Dunham St.
37. Debra Rivet, Dunham Street
38. Beth Gray, Pawling Avenue
39. Mary Marble, McClelland Avenue
40. Justin Rezek, Tibbits Avenue
41. Carolin Skriptshak, Gillette Avenue
42. Carly Fontana, Gregory Court

43. John T. McDonald III
44. Mary Miele, 5th Avenue
45. Carrie A. Phelan, Highpointe Avenue
46. Retired Sgt./acting Capt. Ray White, Pompano Drive
47. Dan Fitzgerald, 5th Avenue
48. Vadim Thomas, 15th Street
49. Detective Robert J Nuttall, Retired, MacSherry Ct.
50. Daniel Purcell, Pawling Avenue
51. -Melissa Bromley, Springwood Manor, Troy, NY 12180
52. Kathleen Gorman, Tibbits Avenue
53. Seamus Donnelly, 3rd Street
54. Steven F. Mclaughlin, County Executive
55. Angie Sunkes, Sherman Avenue
56. Tom Sunkes, Sherman Avenue
57. Jacob Shipley, 2nd Street
58. Nora Dwyer, Spring Ave
59. Chuck Breiner, Myrtle Ave
60. Jerry Ford, 2nd Street
61. Carole Weaver, Stow Avenue
62. Charlene Dobert. Stow Avenue
63. Sue Davis, Manor Boulevard
64. Jeffrey Pirro, Country Gardens Apartment
65. Sam Chiappone, Ida St.
66. Angela Beallor, Jacob Street
67. Avi Nagel, Hill Street
68. Eric Wisher, Fairfield Road
69. Matthew Kent, 6th Avenue
70. Patrick Ryan, Grant Ave
71. Noah Cipperly, Ballina Street
72. Raquel Velho, 4th Street
73. Aleksandr Katko, Highland Ave.
74. David C Judge, Collins Avenue
75. Harry Tutunjian, 24th Street
76. Kylie Spinelli, 103rd Street
77. Anne Marie, Dave, Anthony, Arianna and David Judge, Collins Avenue
78. Sean Donnelly, 39 Euclid Ave.
79. Jonathan Shannon, 3rd St
80. Gerald T. Vogt Jr, Tibbits Avenue
81. Steve Pierce, 1st Avenue
82. Chuck Tremblay, Sherman Avenue
83. Allison Mahar, 6th Avenue
84. David Gwinn, Oakwood Avenue
85. Jen and David Harrington, Hoosick Street
86. Renee Powell, President, NAACP Troy Branch

87. Anthony Marchese, 4th Street
88. Sharon Bidwell, Crockett Ave
89. Amanda Tremblay, Sherman Avenue
90. Tia Greene, Spring Avenue
91. Kristoph Di Maria
92. Rafael Varela, Hill Street
93. Laura Rabinow, Madison Street
94. Raurri Jennings, 4th Street
95. Matthew F. Ryan, Pinewoods Avenue
96. Guy Schaffer, 2nd Street
97. Sean Fagan, 1st Street
98. Mickey Dobbin, 2nd Street
99. Brandon Costelloe-Kuehn, 4th Street
100. Gary Fernet , Lincoln Avenue
101. Josh Chiappone, Maple Avenue
102. Brad Stevens , 5th Avenue
103. Jennifer Bartels, 2nd Street
104. Brandon Tankersley, 2nd Street
105. Amy Halloran, Tenth Street
106. Akiva Benbow, Highland Ave.
107. Alexis Goldsmith, 6th AVE
108. Rhea Drysdale, Massachusetts Avenue
109. Anansa Benbow, MA, Taylor Court
110. Kaleb Winters, Sausse Avenue
111. Anthony Magnosto, Sheldon Avenue

Letters from non-residents

112. Michael J. Drinkwine Jr., Brunswick
113. Jack Rogers, non-resident
114. Eileen Bates, Voorheesville
115. Kelly Cataldo, Ballston Spa
116. Robert Fitzgerald, Midlothian, VA
117. Alexandria Zareski, East Nassau, NY
118. Jim Canfield, Mechanicville
119. Liz Joy, Glenville, NY
120. Judith Enck, Poestenkill, NY

After the meeting, Council members requested the following comments be added to the meeting record:

121. Keith Slupski, Lincoln Ave
122. Samuel P. Ciraulo, Jr., Hawthorne Avenue



NYPIRG

NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

August 6, 2020

Carmella Mantello, President
Troy City Council
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Re: NYPIRG Support of Resolution Supporting The Chaptering Of New York State Legislature Bill A.9952b/S.7880b To Prohibit The Incineration Of Firefighting Foam Containing Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs) In Cohoes

Sent via email to: citycouncil@troyny.gov, mara.drogan@troyny.gov

Dear Troy City Council President Mantello and City Council Members:

I write today as both a resident of Troy and as the Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, to express strong support for the Resolution Supporting The Chaptering of New York State Legislature Bill A.9952B/S.7880B. This legislation is critical to protect Troy's air quality, water quality and the health of Troy residents from the incineration of PFAS firefighting foam in Cohoes.

Norlite, a hazardous waste incinerator operating in Cohoes, NY next to a public housing complex and within a DEC designated environmental justice area, signed a five-year contract with the United States Department of Defense to incinerate AFFF. In 2018 and 2019, Norlite burned 2 million pounds of AFFF in its Cohoes facility. According to the Wall Street Journal, the incinerated material came from 60 military facilities in 25 states.¹

There is no evidence to indicate that burning PFAS firefighting foam is an effective means of destroying these chemicals. In fact, emerging data has shown that incineration may not completely destroy the chemicals and may disperse them through the air.

There is significant concern that the burning of these chemicals at Norlite has contaminated the air and water in Cohoes and neighboring communities, like Troy. **Consequently, the City of Troy should identify and address any harms AFFF burning may have had on Troy residents, particularly those in North-Central Troy.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) itself has raised concerns about PFAS incineration. From its August 2019 Technical Brief: "PFAS compounds are difficult to break down due to fluorine's electronegativity and the chemical stability of fluorinated compounds. Incomplete destruction of PFAS compounds can result in the formation of smaller PFAS products, or products of incomplete combustion,

¹ Kris Maher, "New York Town Discovers a Possibly Toxic Problem," Wall Street Journal, May 20, 2020, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-town-discovers-a-possibly-toxic-problem-11589987031>

which may not have been researched and thus could be a potential chemical of concern.”² Recent test results released by researchers at Bennington College appear to confirm EPA’s concerns.

Preliminary soil sample data collected by Bennington College researchers found PFAS contamination patterns that strongly suggests the AFFF is not being destroyed by incineration.³ According to Bennington College researchers, the most prevalent PFAS compound found near the Norlite facility was PFBA, a PFAS chemical that is rarely detected in soil; however, it has been strongly associated with partially degraded AFFF. Bennington College’s researchers also found that the pattern of contamination around Norlite strongly resembles patterns found at other sites of known contamination, like firefighting training centers and Air Force bases. Additionally, the levels of PFAS chemicals detected exceeded background levels.⁴

Thankfully, Cohoes adopted a one-year moratorium on burning AFFF in law; however, the U.S. Department of Defense attempted to send new shipments of AFFF to Norlite in May 2020. Norlite tried to find other incinerators to accept the waste and in a May 15, 2020 informed the Department of Defense that no other incinerator would accept it. From the letter: "Tradabe has reached out to every approved RCRA incinerators on the DLA qualified facility list only to receive rejection notices from all of them based on the volatility and uncertainty of the destruction of PFOS and PFOA's."

The Department of Defense and Norlite have cancelled their five-year contract after two years.⁵ However, A.9952B/S7880B is still needed because private businesses and other states could still send AFFF to this facility.

Attached to this letter you will find a copy of a letter from over 100 state and national organizations urging the Governor’s chaptering of this law, as well as a copy of NYPIRG’s memorandum of support for the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Moran
Environmental Policy Director

CC: Mayor Patrick Madden

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Technical Brief: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Incineration to Manage PFAS Waste Streams,” August 2019

³ David Bond, “Understanding PFOA: PFAS Levels in Soil and Water around Norlite Incinerator: Summary of Findings,” Bennington College, April 27, 2020, <https://www.bennington.edu/center-advancement-of-public-action/environment-and-public-action/understanding-pfoa>

⁴ Letter from David Bond to DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, May 1, 2020

⁵ Dave Lucas, “Cohoes Residents File Intent To Sue Norlite Over Burning Firefighting Foam,” WAMC, June 25, 2020, <https://www.wamc.org/post/cohoes-residents-file-intent-sue-norlite-over-burning-firefighting-foam>

I am a taxpaying resident of Troy, NY and want to make my voice heard.
I DO NOT AGREE WITH DEFUNDING THE TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Joanne Morelli, Hoosick Street, Troy

Dear Troy City Council:

I would like to request that you please read this letter at the August council meeting Public Forum.

I am fully against defunding our police department and any law enforcement agencies. If anything, Troy needs more police and tougher laws. Troy Police not only have their hands full in this high crime city but have had their hands tied tight when it comes to doing their job. I have witnessed drugs deals and other crimes more than I have witnessed arrests. Troy needs change but the answer is NOT to defund the police. There are very little consequences for the criminals in New York and they have taken over Troy. Our police department is the only safe haven left for law abiding citizens in this city. We need to back our law enforcement agents and support them more!! What we should do is bring in the military to assist our officers in cleaning up Troy once and for all. SUPPORT OUR POLICE NOT THE CRIMINALS!!

Since purchasing my home in 2012 –

- My daughter had 2 cars totaled while parked in front of our home, one being a hit and run. My tenant was the victim of a hit and run a couple months ago along with 2 neighbors.
- Vehicles blast their music so loud that it rattles my home and my tv can't be heard.
- Fight on my front porch at some crazy hour of the night.
- Vehicles drive by and through bottles at homes along with their garbage everywhere.
- Vehicles run the red lights as if they don't exist.
- Items stolen out of our back yard
- Illegal dumping
- Illegal dirt bikes on our streets
- Kids blocking the roads on their bikes
- My previous tenant beat up and robbed in the alley.
- Never ending illegal fireworks and go on until all hours of the night. I have 2 dogs that were a complete mess because of the noise. My car was covered in ashes and a small section of lawn caught fire.
- Groceries were stolen from the trunk of my car while I was unloading them into my home.
- My daughter was stopped for the red light one night about 9:30pm on 5th by the old Stewarts and kids no older than 10 years old stood in front of her car yelling and banged on the hood of it. This took place in May of this year.
- I have to stay with my dogs when they are in my fenced yard because of the fear of someone letting them out or taking them. I fear our cars parked on 5th Ave because of the hit and runs and vandals.

- Then the endless shootings and drug deals. McDonalds on Hoosick street isn't there to grab a Happy Meal for your child, its to exchange drug deals. I cannot believe the number of drug deals I have witnessed in Troy and in broad daylight!

Defunding should take place with the welfare system not our police officers who risk their lives daily!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Hollenbeck, 5th Ave

I would vote to raise my taxes if the increase would go to the Troy Police Department. Do not defund.

Concern taxpayer
Angela Gavin. Tibbits Avenue

I 100% support the Troy Police Department. As Administrator of Capital District Shootings Group I have seen the level of crime and violent crime increase over the last 5 years. The department is spread thin as it is and at times can be dangerous for the community. There is no room for racism in the police department. There is no room for excessive force or brutality in the police dept. There is no room for corruption in the police department.

Improper behavior should be punishable. Police Departments have a responsibility to train officers and maintain professional standards. All government agencies are driven by funding. Reduce funding you reduce service. Eliminate funding you eliminate services. If changes need to happen legislators need to enact them. Police are the face of government. In times of crisis they are the first line of order in any community. They are the agency's confronted by society that is angry about racism, brutality and lack of government action.

Racism must end.

Police brutality must end.

Assault against police must end.

Government must govern.

We need our police to keep order and keep us safe. I support the Troy police Department 100% and against defunding 100%

John VanAlstyne, Pawling Ave.

Against DEFUNDING the Troy PD.

Who in their right mind would even consider defunding the Troy Police Dept? We need MORE police funding with everything that is happening in our city, NOT LESS!

We're not safe walking down our streets. On 6/5 Donovan Clayton was struck by a stray bullet while walking home!! With all of the shootings you can't let your children outside to play for fear of them becoming an innocent victim!!

Hard working people are getting attacked! The 71 year old owner of Jimmy's lunch was brutally attacked and robbed, just trying to earn a living!

A 59 year old woman was attacked and her car stolen by a 16 year old! And this after she was kind enough to give him a ride. It's no wonder why good people are afraid to offer a helping hand anymore!!

And the recent assault on Grace Baptist Church forced church goers to be escorted inside. You shouldn't have to fear for your life while going to church.

Just walking into a corner store could put you in jeopardy of witnessing an armed robbery.

To say nothing about the never ending battles associated with the drug problem in our city!! Drug dealers, guns, overdoses.

Thank God for the Troy Police Department in arresting the fort drum soldier and others who were armed on the night of the peaceful protest in Troy. My guess is that this thwarted some dangerous activity.

Bail reform isn't helping matters any when criminals are arrested three times in one day. One such criminal was arrested three times over a span of just seven hours. I'm sure this is not only frustrating for the officers (I know it angers me) but time consuming dealing with the same criminal while other areas are possibly taking a back seat!

WE NEED MORE POLICENOT LESS!!

Please read into the August Meeting Public Forum.
Francie Horton, Plum Ave

Good morning! I have operated a Family Daycare up by Turnpike Elementary School for the past 25 years. I have, in the past, had to call for help by the Troy PD over these years. I have always had a confidence in the men and women on the force to assist our family with safety and security issues.

I cannot imagine any family looking for childcare would even consider having their child(ren) be in an environment where there is NO security or safety provided by the City through its Police Department. I know I wouldn't!!!

You shouldn't have to think that long or hard about what defunding the Police Department would do to our hometown of Troy/Lansingburgh. Residents would have to take SAFETY AND SECURITY issues into their own hands against the people who feel they can do what they want, whenever they want, take what they want whenever they feel they deserve it.

Rules are made to keep us safe ~~ I teach that to my daycare kids! If rules are not followed, they need to deal with the consequences. This simple rule goes for adults as well ~~ the Troy Police Department IS NEEDED to enforce the rules and deal with the rule-breakers.

THINK - THINK - THINK of all the harm that would come to the residents if the Troy PD is defunded. It is the most ridiculous idea I have heard of.

When you took your position with the City, did you take this position to:

- ~ make Troy a better place
- ~ listen to the peoples pleas & needs
- ~ use your GOOD JUDGEMENT!

Thank you for listening to my plea.

PLEASE ~ PLEASE ~ PLEASE~ PLEASE
DO NOT DEFUND THE TROY POLICE!

Sincerely,
Lorraine Gould, Owner/Operator, Gould Family Daycare, New Turnpike Rd.

Hello, I'm a 35- year old woman living and working in Troy. I work downtown and I own a home in the Lansingburgh/North Central area. I'm writing in support of our police department. For the record, I'm a total liberal. Full on hippie with tattoos who wears a mask at every Black Lives Matter protest I've attended. I am not an "old white guy" or "some conservative" with an agenda for keeping people who don't look and think like me down. I am the daughter of a cop who genuinely believes that not all police are bad because of the horrific actions of some. I do NOT support defunding the police. Do you know what I support? More training for police. Longer academy periods. Cultural sensitivity and de-escalation training. MORE support for police in neighborhoods that need the extra police presence. Not LESS. That's a disaster waiting to happen. And if anyone doesn't believe me, please come spend a weekend on the bad blocks around my street. Please. I'll walk with you and talk with you, point out the problem areas everyone knows about but no one can stop. We need more programs in these neighborhoods to keep the kids off the street. More economic opportunity for the parents to make more

money to support their kids properly. More time and programs getting the police on the streets working with the kids in problem neighborhoods. More action. Not less. DO NOT DEFUND the police. Figure out a way to work with the budget we have and stop giving all the money to downtown. I'm sure everyone is enjoying the mini-Brooklyn revival down on Broadway, but at what cost? I'll tell you, it's the cost of the South Troy, Burgh, and North Central neighborhoods that need these police efforts now more than ever. Wake up, City officials. Stop pandering to the masses eating up the defund the police Kool Aid that's so popular right now. Start acting. Please. The kids need you. The old people and renting college students in your fancy luxury apartments downtown are not going to be the future of your City. The kids being ignored in these less fortunate neighborhoods determine your future. Start paying attention to them. Before it's too late. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Lindsey Meyer, 7th Avenue

Please read, communicate this letter of support for the men and woman of the Troy Police Department.

I Thomas Vumbaco, of 14th Street Troy, NY, support the Troy Police Department and their daily efforts in making Troy a safer place for all. I do not support the action of defunding the police. Doing so would be catastrophic to the city. As elected officials please support the members of TPD."

Also, if needed i would be more than happy to voice my opinion and feelings at the up and coming meetings addressing these topics.

Thank you,
Thomas Vumbaco, 14th Street

Dear City Council Members,

We are writing this letter in strong opposition of police defunding.

While we are in agreement that the recent episodes of police brutality and violence are intolerable, we are also of the belief that this behavior in no way represents the vast majority of police officers. In fact, to the contrary, the behavior of these individuals disgusts their fellow officers...it does not, and should not, define them!

In our experience most officers strive to connect with and support the communities and the individuals that they were sworn to serve and protect. Officers are charged with responding to extremely difficult situations, and doing so in a nonjudgmental and supportive manner. Most do this daily with compassion and a high degree of professionalism.

During our careers (mine as a retired school administrator and my husband's as a retired RSCO Captain) we could spend hours and write pages recounting specific examples of local officers who have displayed selfless service, risked their own lives, and acted as pure humanitarians.

If the police were to be defunded it would further exacerbate an already inequitable system, where the poor are marginalized and under-protected. It would encourage vigilantism, and widen an already intolerable divide.

Instead of defunding our police department, we implore you to continue to provide training that allows police to navigate challenging situations with composure and treat all humans with dignity, while simultaneously allowing them to do their jobs and the return home safely to their families each day.

We support the Troy PD.

Respectfully submitted,
Hal Smith and Kelly Smith, Hickory Court

I Live and walk/drive the streets of TROY. I GAVE seen them deteriorate and now being built back up. Beautiful community events. Restoration of River area. Restaurants etc. Please do not DEFUND THE POLICE. WE THE PEOPLE Need them.

Please read this at the next meeting. Our lives depend on it. So does the city and its growth and safety.

Susan A McCabe, Hyland Drive

I am writing to voice my support for the Troy Police Department after hearing about the "demands" to defund the police department.

How can we even consider this when we have neighborhoods where crime is in the rise every day and families cannot even trust that their children are safe in their own yards?

Please do not fall to the hateful demands being made. Common sense alone should win out here. Can we look at programs to help establish better police/neighborhood relations? Of course, but how about highlighting some of the positive things going on in a commercial to bring some balance to the situation.

This is very concerning for the silent majority, hopefully you will hear from many like myself.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary D'Amico, Munro Court
Troy Resident and Tax Payer

First, let me say I support our men and women in law enforcement. But I am writing to address the issue of defunding the Troy police department. I have been a resident of Troy, NY for almost 19 years. My son and daughter were raised here. My son became a marine. And my daughter just graduated high school. I'd like you to consider what it would be like if there were no police. A situation where your daughter or son is attacked, your home is broken into. Now imagine that situation happening everyday and there's no police. The idea of taking funding from the people risking their lives everyday to protect everyone is beyond comprehension. The men and women who wear that badge deserve support. Not have city officials turn their backs on them when they need support the most. Yes change is necessary but you can only get change with training. Taking the funds needed to get the necessary training only leads to repetitive behavior and it's not going to fix the problem. It is just going to prolong the inevitable. Understand the majority of the city of Troy respect the police and want them to be here. We deserve that protection. We don't deserve city officials who are making decisions that affect everyone. Especially considering what's happening in the major cities who are defunding the police. What's happening there will happen here if you defund the police. And while you may be safe where you are. The rest of us are left out in the cold having to defend ourselves. We need well trained and fully funded police departments not less. Your constituents and communities need to do the right thing.

Thank you
Maryrose Calenzo-Santiago, 5th Avenue

My name is Ned Alaskey I am a Troy by tax payer . I fully support Troy PD and DO NOT WISH TO HAVE THEM DEFUNDED .

Ned Alaskey, Hyland Drive

I am a current resident of Troy, NY. I went through the Troy Public School system K-12 and also worked in multiple of the schools previously. I love my community and our city. I love working for our city. I support the Troy Police Department and personally see the toll it takes on officers already being short-staffed. Still, day in & day out, each one suits up and goes out to serve our community. They work holidays, they get held over for extra shifts - all hours of the day and night, & they often get called to come in to assist last minute in times of shortage/crisis. Through a pandemic, each officer suited up & put themselves & their families in jeopardy to go out and serve the community. Not because they have to, they have individual skill sets that could be utilized elsewhere, but because they love this city and the people in it. I DO NOT

support defunding the Troy Police Department. I fully support the Troy Police Department and proudly serve next to my co-workers every day I gear up. I love this community and want what is best for this city and the safety of its citizens. As elected officials, please support the members of TPD. I would greatly appreciate if this letter was read at the next meeting in August.

Thank you for your time,
Sam Rivet, Dunham Street

My name is Ron Fountain i am a retired police officer. I am writing this letter to say that defunding the police would be a severe in justice to the City Of Troy. There are good people everywhere in the City who depend on the police.

The youth of the community depend on the police to give them guidance and keep them safe. And without the police who will keep the grade school children safe. The police truly are the last hope for many of the youth in our community please keep them safe.

Ron Fountain, Maple Avenue

I grew up in Green Island, but spent much of my youth in Troy, as my mom's side of the family had roots in Sycaway. My family is very proud of the fact that my great grandfather was Captain of the Troop G Police Barracks on South Lake Ave. I was raised to respect and admire people like him, who swore an oath to serve and protect. Many others in the family followed his footsteps in service to their communities in various ways.

I went to Catholic Central High School, and shortly after graduation, decided that I loved the Burgh enough to settle here. I've been a tenant, a homeowner, and a landlord. I've seen many changes, most not good. Some not unique to Burgh or Troy, but sad nonetheless. I am still here, although defunding the police would certainly help me give in to the desire to flee a city i once loved wholeheartedly.

It's come to the attention of many across the city that a small, but organized and vocal email effort to demonize TPD has been underway recently. I have listened to the reading of them at the meetings, and came to the conclusion that many are copy and paste demands from the radical fringes. It's silly to think that they all somehow on their own came up with the magical number of ten million dollars being needed to solve societal and personal problems.

I am very much opposed to defunding the police department in any way, shape, or form, and am in full support of DEFENDING them from political smears.

The vast majority of people who are actual residents here are proud supporters of all of our first responders. We are fortunate to have some of the best trained men and women around

protecting our streets 24/7. To even entertain the thought of giving in to unrealistic demands such as handing over 10 million dollars for the "movement" is ludicrous.

(yes, movement is in quotations because it's not really clear who is actually behind these demands, there are many seemingly unconnected and incohesive messages out there.)

As many do, i listen to the scanner often. There are many days and nights where they are jumping from call to call to call. Stabbings, muggings, assaults, shots fired, injuries, homicide, domestics, checking the welfare of, missing children, abused and neglected children, accidents, burglary, stolen property, drug dealing, on and on. Many times, EMS cannot even safely respond until the scene is secured by TPD. CPS, and mental health services workers are frequently accompanied by TPD, at their own request, as those situations are never always as easy as they start out to be. I would never dream of sending anyone other than a trained officer into these situations alone, without protection.

The same people that the defunding crowd claims to care about would ironically be the very people most likely to be cruelly impacted without a strong police presence. They are the most likely to be victims of violent crime. You never hear about those statistics, though.

Bottom line, i know that I have depended upon TPD many times personally, know countless others that have as well, and am extremely grateful for their service, especially in a time when spewing hatred upon them seems to sadly be in fashion. If anything, we need more police, so that they are able to directly interact with the people more such as in times not so long ago, when we had wonderful community police officers. A couple that i had the pleasure of working with on grants were Aaron Collington and Colleen Goldston. They both, as others before and after them, made great strides in the neighborhoods. I know many current officers would be more apt to interact if there were proper staffing to provide time to do so.

You can pretend all day long that cookies and peacemakers will have an impact on violent criminals, but that is not the case. The administration and Council both need to acknowledge and support the TPD in these troubling times.

I respectfully ask that this letter be read at the August Council Meeting.

Nancy Wright, 2nd Avenue
Just another Lansingburgh resident.

Every day over 130 Troy police officers leave their families and loved ones at home to go out to protect our community. They do this every day not knowing if they will return home. Yet they still continue to uphold and defend the oath they took to protect our community. I am writing this to show my support and gratitude to all the men and women who protect us every day. We may need reform, but PLEASE not by defunding the Troy Police Department. That would be a disaster. Thank you.

Carol Donnelly, Terrace Place

I'm against defunding the Troy police, they are a great asset, not only as LEOs but they interact with the youth of Troy as well and aim to be role models, I personally have a few friends that are Troy police... so again I stand against defunding TPD

Raymond Dufresne, 2nd st

Hello,

My name is Dan Mahar. I'm a resident of Troy's Miami Beach Neighborhood. I'm voicing my concern for the lack of support for our Police Department. Now and never is there a time to defund or slash funding to one of the most crucial departments in our community. Public safety should never be compromised.

We've seen for quite some time gang violence and high rates of violent crime in the city that we love. Troy PD has made strides to help curve this problem. Specifically, areas of downtown Troy have made a huge comeback thanks to a fantastic job by Troy PD. People wouldn't and won't invest in bad neighborhoods with too much risk. I believe if we cut and thin out our the police department we will be inviting the spread and increase levels of crime.

I've got children and the presence of school resource officers is a great security to an uncertain world. I've recognized their interactions with students as positive and in some cases life changing. The lack of funding would certainly cut this position from the police department due to the need to fill basic patrol functions.

It seems lately our police officers are working in the most stressful situations more than ever. From the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the protests, the call to defund and lack of support, to the increased calls for shootings and violent crime, it is taking a toll on our police.

Now is the the time to back our men and women in blue. They don't ask for a pat on the back or expect to be told they're doing a great job but we are all human and support and gratitude towards the people who run towards the danger is always appreciated.

I do not support the movement to defund the Troy Police Department and I hope the council acknowledges the difficulties the Police Department face and funding needed to perform their jobs at a safe and efficient level.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Mahar, Hialeah Drive

Do not defund the police or the firemen give both more money and back they so they can do their jobs the courts have to do their jobs and put them away

Maybe you could defund your pay a little bit and maybe open all the pools next year for the kids the ones we all care about remember

Thank you
Daniel McGreevy Jr., 5th Avenue

I am requesting that this letter be read if full at the next city council zoom meeting.

I am a Troy resident. I am also the owner of 5 building in the city of Troy. I pay the property tax on those builds with the expectation that my tax dollars go towards the funding of the police department for the protection of me and my family. Please don't defund the police force. Thier purpose is to protect law abiding citizens.

Alexander Zdonick, 109 2nd Ave

My name is David Nicholas, I am a lifelong resident of the City of Troy, NY and come from a family who have ran numerous businesses in the City of Troy. I am writing this letter in opposition of defunding the Troy Police Department. We need more officers on the street to serve, protect, and to uphold law and order in our City. The Troy Police Department should not be defunded, and here are some reasons why:

- July 26, multiple reports of shots fired at the intersection of 6th Avenue and 109th Street
- July 17, multiple suspects taken into custody as a result of a narcotics raid on 5th Avenue
- July 16, one person shot behind the South Troy Deli
- Research by Jonathan Glick of Florida State University and Alexander Tarbarrok of George Mason University, conducted in 2005, has shown “an increase in police presence of about 50 percent leads to a statistically and economically significant decrease in the level of crime on the order of 15 percent.”
- Research conducted by Stephen Mello of Dartmouth College published in 2018 demonstrated an increase in police staffing levels decrease crime levels.
- Police officers risk their lives for us every day and are the first responders to a broad range of public-safety issues and serious crime. Who will take their place in the City of Troy?

The health and wellbeing of the citizens of Troy, NY are at stake here and defunding our police department is an option. I Thank You for your time and I hope the City Council and Mayor agree on how valuable our police department is and the funding they continue to need.

Sincerely,
David C. Nicholas, MPH

To whom it may concern,

I have been a lifelong Lansingburgh resident for the past 34 years. To defund the police, which are already low staffed and overworked would be a huge disservice to the law-abiding, tax paying citizens. If anything, we should defund and remove the current mayor. The city is already at an all time high with drug and crime activities. The non-existent mayor is more concerned with splash pads and cutting ribbons than addressing the violent crime and shootings daily. This is not the family orientated place it once was. Lifelong residents, who have lived in the area 50+ years are running for the hills. They are sick of the quality of life issues that are never addressed; fireworks daily, absurdly loud music from vehicles at all hours of the day/night, blatant drug dealing, dilapidated buildings, and shootings daily. Defunding the police is not the answer! We need more police, out on foot and horse patrol getting to know the community. We need a mayor who actually shows his face and takes action. We need more police power and more opportunities for kids and adults. We need to eliminate the out-of-state slum lords. We are working to turn things around but the lack of help coming from the current administration is further crippling this once thriving city.

Respectfully,
Matthew Casey, 111th Street

I have been a resident of Troy for 43 years. Through this time I have seen the growth of this city. Absentee landlords, vacant building, and generally cleaning up the city has taken place. New businesses and property values have increased. Troy was growing.

Now you want to defund the police?!?!

Is this an invitation for criminals to freely come in and not have consequences?!?! What do you think will happen? Will you be at the next crime scene? Or serving warrants to get the drug dealer off the street? Or maybe you will talk with the next parent who's child is murdered from gang violence? Are you kidding!!!! The police force needs additional funds for training and safety equipment not less!!!

Even the fact that this letter must be written is insane! Respect the badge and pray that this country comes to its senses before it's too late!

Thank the officer that puts his or her life in danger everyday. Be smart, not a pawn in this very dangerous game being played.

Thanks and prayers to all the people who keep us safe.

Sandra Miele, Excelsior Avenue

I am scared to live LANSINGHBURGH.....I've lived here for almost 40yrs.

Do any of you know what it's like to have a drive-by shooting 2 houses down from your childhood home?

Do you know what it's like to live in constant fear of that happening again?

I am a life long resident of Lansingburgh. A couple of years ago there was a drive by shooting on 6th and 122nd.... i wasn't home, but my 80yr old mother was that I take care of.

Do you know what it's like to come home, not be able to park in your own driveway because there is police tape across it bc the found shell casings on your front lawn? To have to beg the police to let you go see your mom bc she's scared?!??

Do you know what it's like to have a next door neighbor who you are too scared to look at bc of the sketchy things that go on at all hours of the day and night?

How do you all feel when you listen to the scanners, see posts on social media and the news that there has been ANOTHER SHOOTING in Troy?

I would love to move, but who is going to want to buy a house in Troy, up in Lansingburgh where it was once a save place.

We should be hearing from ALL

OF YOU more often then we do about crime. Regardless of what section of Troy you represent.

I cannot imagine living in Burgh and having the TPD budget cut or even worse Defunded?!?! If anything, the TROY PD deserves MORE!

I can't even believe this subject is up for discussion. It's absurd!

Thank you for your time,

Lori and Wendy McGarry, 6th Ave

I am sending this email in hopes of expressing my support of keeping the schools with an SRO.

Not only is SRO Streeter one of the most compassionate and involved SRO's we have ever had in this District but he has become part of our Lansingburgh family.

Taking him away from the families of this district would be such a disservice to this community.

Please do not defund our police departments.

Our men and women in Blue are so crucial at this time and are needed more than ever.

Thank You,
Maureen Jensen, Bellview Road

I support the Troy Police Department and their daily efforts in making Troy a safer place for all. I do not support the action of defunding the police.

Thank you for your time
Ish and Setrack Abdo, Hoosick Street

We need are troy police, without them things would only get worse, if anything we need more patrolling are neighborhood's, please don't defund them, we need are police in full force everyday

Erick Serrano , 4th Avenue

I back the Troy police. I don't believe the city council should be trying to make changes to the Troy police force. If anything you should take more of our tax dollars and put it into the police department. I believe our officers are good! I've lived in Troy my whole life and have owned a house in Lansingburgh for the last 20 years. Please don't take away from our police department. We need them!

Jennifer Lopiano. 6th Avenue

I appreciate the Council's forbearance in listening to a few words from someone who once shared in their current responsibilities of holding office. I served as a City Council member representing District 3 for four terms, from January 2010 until December 2017. I understand your responsibilities and your obligation to maintain safety and security in Troy, for the benefit of all Troy residents. In my experience, the Troy Police Department has always conducted itself in ways that reflect the very best principles of fairness, diligence, and respect for the rights of all Troy's citizens. During my eight years in office we experienced many tumultuous events in Troy. I was always impressed by TPD's unwavering professionalism, courage, and dedication to serving Troy's residents equitably and honorably. I could cite numerous examples, but out of respect for the Council's time I will simply state that the Troy Police Department has continually demonstrated its worth to Troy and its citizens, and that any effort to weaken the Department

through the budgetary process will only serve to undermine and jeopardize the welfare and safety of those very people you've sworn to represent.

Thank you for your attention.

Dean Bodnar, Brunswick Meadows Way, Troy 12182

My name is Eugene St John 14th Street Troy. I wanted to send a letter to the city council to be read at the next meeting showing my support for the men and women of the Troy police department. In these crazy times we hear of defunding police and consolidating and cutbacks . I just want to make sure that Troy is not one of those cities that does this insanity. These Fine men and women of our Police Department are out there every day to protect and to serve our community we owe it to them to show our support. Looking at these cities that are doing these cuts and defunding you see all the problems that they're having this would create Mayhem on our streets I do hear word on the street friends talking about Troy wanting to do this, I just want to make sure that you listen to the people of Troy and do not proposed or sponsor legislation for these crazy ridiculous cuts to our police force. They have a tough job to do as it is now with everybody having a camera and having no respect for them please show them the respect and fund our Police Department. And no I'm not a police officer I'm a very concerned citizen for what I see going on around me. thank you for your time

Eugene St. John, 14th Street

DO NOT DEFUND our Troy Police! This is not a solution, it will only deteriorate the safety of all our citizens. I am a long time resident with a family owned business in downtown Troy, which has been here for over 70 years. The Troy Police have been a long time friend of the community throughout this time. Many other things have changed, but their important **community policing** has not. In order to keep businesses in Troy we all need to support our Troy Police and **increase funding** to continue to keep our community safe.

We have a daughter at Troy High School having the Troy Police presence in the school is a necessity for children to feel safe. The community needs more education on the positive work Police do. People need to understand if they are going to break the law, there are consequences. Citizens need to respect the laws of society! You can not steal, destroy other's property, run from law enforcement, sell drugs, beat others, kill, etc.... Law and Order needs to be maintain to have a civilize society. The Police in every community in our Country are the backbone to Law and Order. Look at the devastation occurring in other cities who are not allowing their Police to do their job!

Troy was able to have a peaceful protest in June because of our **excellent** Troy Police! As a business we had to board up our windows for fear that the crowds would become violent and

turn into a riot as happened in so many cities across our nation. It was the Troy Police who were able to remove the anarchists from the crowd.

Police put their lives on the line everyday. The Police Officer's families each day wonder if something will happen as their mother/father, brother/sister, son/daughter leave for work. Will they return home? There are more police officers killed in the line of duty than criminals resisting arrest. That side of the story is never discussed. The media only publicize the rare incidence of unacceptable policing, that police themselves don't want. They also choose to leave out the part of the story of the crime which took place calling the police to the scene. Our society is meant to be fair and just. Hearing just one side is eroding our constitutional rights to "Life, Liberty, and Justice for All!" There is never a focus on all the good our Law Enforcement does for us across the Country. The Police are not the problem in our society therefore defunding them is not the solution.

It is every citizens right to be safe. It is not **just** for you to take our rights away based on a few individuals who want to change our Constitutional rights! **DO NOT DEFUND OUR TROY POLICE!**

Anne Hango Costa, Valley View Drive

As a local Lansingburgh resident that also works in Lansingburgh, I fully support the Troy Police Department and their daily efforts and actions in protecting our community. I do NOT support the action of defunding the police. Doing so would be catastrophic to the city. Our police need more assistance, new hires, more training, more efficient equipment. I believe defunding them would hurt our city when it is already hurting enough. As our elected officials, I beg of you to please support our members of the Troy Police Department.

Thank you and have a blessed day!
Shannon Craven, 3rd Ave

Over the last several months the Troy police has dealt with several shootings, homicides and drug related calls not to forget about traffic accidents and traffic stops. We hardly have the resources to deal with the issues we face here in the city on a daily basis. Cutting the police funding even by one dollar could be detrimental to our city and residents. Our city is on the list of the most dangerous cities in the country. I implore the city government to act appropriately and increase our police budget we CANNOT AFFORD to lose any of our dedicated officers to other cities and municipalities. I have been a resident of the city my entire life. Our officers deserve respect and to know that our city officials have their backs during this trying time. I would gladly come to a meeting to defend our police force and it's officers.

Sincerely,
Theron J. Maloney, Kinloch Avenue

I am a Troy resident and I would like this letter read at the August meeting. I am writing this letter in full support of the Troy Police Dept. The TPD is a very professional, well trained and respected Police Dept. They were courteous and respectful to the thousands of protestors that came to the city recently and made the national news because of it. The TPD is actually under staffed presently and any defunding would be disastrous for the City of Troy. TPD go from call to call and at times don't have anyone to send to active calls now. If you defund the police then the criminals will flock to the city where they will have a safe haven and violence sky rocket. Take a look at New York City and what is happening there. All the progress Troy has made will be reversed and businesses will leave the city in droves because of safety concerns. There are hundreds of new apartments being built in the city bringing thousands of new residents here. If you defund the police are you going to tell these new residents that when they call for help that no one will be coming? You are talking about reducing the police when you should be implementing an increase. The only people who benefit from a reduction in police are the criminals!

With regards,
Rick Rivet, Dunham St.

I am a Troy resident. Please read this letter at the August Meeting.

First I would like to commend the police department and all agencies involved in the spectacular job regarding the large protest in our city. It was truly an amazing display of professionalism.

I am not sure what our census was when the number of police officers were hired to protect our city. I am quite sure the number of officers hired has not changed. The number of residents is increasing. New apartments being built. These Residents of all ages depend on safety.

I am a retired nurse. My oath was safety first. Most of our oaths in careers meeting public needs are safety first. Defunding our major safety mechanism is not the appropriate decision.

Debra Rivet, Dunham Street

On behalf of The Eastside Inn, I strongly urge the policy makers in our city to fully support and fund our police dept. People and businesses will suffer and leave if these anti law enforcement activists start influencing the safety of citizens. We back the blue.

Sincerely,
Beth Gray, Pawling Avenue

I as a tax payer in the city feel defunding the police at this time is not the right answer. Crimes never stop we need ever cop the city has to keep up with it.

Mary Marble, McClelland Avenue

I would like to start by saying I was born and raised right here in Troy NY. My father and his family immigrated to Troy in the late 60s and have never thought of leaving. That thought is now here and becoming more of a possibility. We have noticed a slow but steady increase in crime, especially violent crime, within the city over the years. These crimes only seem like a figure or a stat until it hits home. On the evening of August 29th, 2013 like any other day in his life, my father had just got through working a 9 hour shift at his business and was getting ready to close up shop. That night we were celebrating my sisters birthday at our family home. I was getting ice and a cake for her party when I received a phone call that my father had just been the victim of an armed robbery, and was assaulted and laying injured and bleeding on the neighboring homes steps. I rushed down to the carlot in what seemed to be seconds. There was a swarm of Troy Police officers and detectives all working vigorously to find evidence and track down these criminals. The show of support and genuine care from the police department was very appreciated and reassuring in these trying times for our family. For many months after, detectives would show up to our business and give us updates and show genuine concern and caring because of what had happened. Troy PD works very hard to maintain the safety of the city and to protect and serve the city. To even consider defunding the police department at all would be absolutely ridiculous. In my opinion they should have more funding and more training so they can do an even better job than they already are.

Thank you all for your time,

Justin Rezek, Tibbits Avenue

As a resident, Homeowner and Taxpayer of the City of Troy I am writing **AGAINST** defunding the Troy Police Department. I have lived in the City of Troy for over 50 years and I have seen and witnessed a lot of crimes within our City. I have also witnessed the professionalism and great work that our Troy Police Officer do on a daily basis and with that said I am also aware of some incidences that an Officer did not act appropriately or acted border line criminally. I'm sad, anxious and concerned for the future for a lot of different reason, just as I am sure most others are that are paying attention to the chaos and lawlessness going on in our country right now. I am writing just to express my concern to the growing sentiment that has risen to "defund the police". I do not know of anyone including most police officers that weren't horrified and shocked by the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis Police Officer. Emotions have been running high as expected but making decision on emotions very

rarely results in good outcomes and is just a gut reaction based on strong feelings towards a very limited number of Police Officers.

Is there room for police reform? Absolutely. I also believe that any officer that violates the law needs to be held accountable as well as any superior who allows it and let's such incidences go unpunished. I don't think these certain groups calling for the defunding of Police really understand the day to day work a police officer has to deal with. I am sure most police officers would love to have a mental health professional handle crises involving people with mental distress. How about our homeless population, I am sure the Police would love to have people who specialize in the homeless issues address those calls so they can get them to the resources they need quickly. What these groups don't understand is our Police Officers are now specialized in all these different aspects and they aren't just handling crimes.

If citizens want their police officers involved in the community addressing crime(which I support 100%) , keeping order and helping them in more ways than one, then the police departments need to have the resources to do that, not less. Addressing crime, reducing crime, preventing crime and keeping the public safe are what our Officers are trained to do the most. They want to help the residents and they want our neighborhoods to be safe starting with that child in the park on a swing to the senior citizen just out for a walk. For the Police to be able to do that and do it well they need to be properly funded and staffed with good leadership and continuous training.

Keep in mind when departments are defunded and their budgets are cut, the first thing they will lose will be the opportunity to train and maintain their professionalism. They will also lose their ability to engage with the community, with the children in our schools and playgrounds, they no longer will have the time to stop and help a child up who fell off his bike or assist a resident with just small task as carrying a grocery bag to the door for them. Instead they will be left with just the basic operations of dealing with the crimes that have already been committed, responding to just emergency calls and investigating crimes.

When you defund a police department this is what happens, the department is left physically and mentally exhausted and Police officers are worn out and then that's when things will start to go awry. This is what will happen in our community if we allow defunding our police. It has the total opposite effect of what these small group of people are trying to accomplish and I for one will not stand for that in my community.

I stand behind the good Officers of the Troy Police Department and I again want to go on record as opposing **DEFUNDING** our Police Department.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very serious concern.

Carolin Skriptshak, Gillette Avenue

P.S. I also hope that any letters being received for defunding the Troy Police Department are checked to make sure they are actual City of Troy residents.

As a life long resident of Troy and a sister of a New York City cop, I am disheartened that the city council would even be considering to defund the police, especially during the current times we are living in. Violent crime is up all across the nation and waging war against the officers that have sworn to protect us is ridiculous. Troy PD has always been professional, courteous

and sympathetic any time I've had to call them. Please support our TPD members and do not even consider to defund them one cent.

Carly Fontana, Gregory Court

I would like to share some thoughts regarding the ongoing discussion in Troy and in other communities about the future of law enforcement in the City. Society rightly is upset, angry, and disappointed not just regarding the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, but also the long laundry list of other incidents that have occurred over the years. Those incidents and many others were wrong and an outrageous abuse of power. The public expects more, and I do not disagree with the outrage that is being expressed not only here in Troy but throughout our region, state, and country. The public wants change, and I credit the City Council and the Administration for their engagement to listen and solicit public comment.

The call for change is easy. It is the actual change that is difficult. Many people have fought and gave their lives fighting for change and while we have seen incremental progress, we can agree that there is work to do and people are tired of waiting. There are demands to defund the police department. I do not agree with any intent to simply defund police. As a former Mayor who was responsible for a police department and a four-term legislator who has worked on legislation on criminal justice matters, I believe the solution is not singular in nature and it requires full and balanced community input. However, I am aware that when some are discussing "defunding the police," it is a more nuanced approach. That approach would not simply take all money from law enforcement but instead commit necessary resources toward mental health and other social services to prevent the need to call the police in the first place. Something we all can agree is necessary, not only to improve the lives of our community members but also have the benefit of removing pressure from the police departments and therefore the officers.

The City of Troy Police Department handles up to 50,000 calls per year for service from its residents. The calls range in nature from minor to major issues. Sadly, most calls are complex and revolve around human behavior run afoul. In as much as there have been some tragic incidents, the department seeks to handle the majority of calls professionally and without additional incident. That is a credit to the work of the officers and the ability of residents to respond to properly trained officers whose goals are not to arrest but to ensure the safety of all in the community. Sadly, that gets lost in the discussion that is ongoing today.

As a former Mayor, I dealt with good officers and some not so good. I also dealt with great residents and some not so good. What worked for those I served then is that law enforcement had the proper resources, training, and support to carry out their duties. When officers do not perform their duties in a safe and respectful way, they must be disciplined, and the public should be aware if that discipline is determined to be valid. Legislation recently passed at the state that I supported clears the way for transparency in a process which in the past was hidden

from the public. Yes, unfortunately, there will be some bad actors in law enforcement we must continue to improve and see where we can do better.

At the same time, the job of law enforcement is not easy. The public can be challenging at times as individuals with behavioral health issues, whether it be substance abuse or mental health, act out in public putting themselves, those around them, and the public at large in potential jeopardy. The job wears on the strongest willed individuals which is why I believe each department needs to have some process for officers to seek support, confidentially, when the stress of policing is impacting their lives and that of those they live with and protect. I also believe that law enforcement and the community need to at times step back and ask themselves what is the best way to protect our community and respect each other. Law enforcement policies and procedures are not to be etched in stone never to be changed but in fact, need to be reviewed periodically for potential updating. Therefore, I am supportive of the Governor's Executive Order to require each community to convene mid next year to solicit public input on what works in the community as it relates to policing. This is government at its best and one that I believe, if carried out properly, will lead to consensus on future direction of how law enforcement is carried out in the City of Troy.

Let me close with this comment. I hear the pain and anguish from residents. I also respect the difficult role of being a police officer. It is more difficult now than ever before and to those who go out and do their job every day I say thank you. Truth be told, officers don't relish the same call time after time to break up repeat domestic violence calls, however the person who is being victimized surely wants law enforcement to be there when he or she needs them. The same holds true for many other calls most of which are centered around quality of life issues. Sadly, there is a small percentage of residents who act out and consume most officers' time and this wears on officers and the department's resources. I do believe if a larger community dialogue is engaged that seeks not to point fingers but to bring the community together, the City of Troy and it's residents will be well served by a constructive conversation not about defunding the police but more importantly on how to reprioritize its resources within the broader discussion of systemic change.

Sincerely,
Member of Assembly
John T. McDonald III

My name is Mary Miele and I live at 5th Ave Troy. I have been a Troy resident all my life.

I am writing to you on the topic of the Troy Police Dept.

We need these wonderful men and women. No one has the right to demand they be defunded, etc.

These men and women go out every day risking their lives to protect us residents. I am totally against defunding the Troy Police Dept. I will always support the men and women in blue.

Thank you
Mary Miele, 5th Avenue

I just wanted to take a minute to express my strong support for the Troy PD and their efforts for making Troy a safer place. I am the principal of Knickerbacker Middle School in Lansingburgh and I have been a resident of Troy my entire life.

Our SRO Officer Streeter has done an excellent job at making our schools a safer place. He is proactive and builds great connections with our diverse school community. He has a miraculous way of quietly, yet effectively reaching those hard to reach students. Our students have vocalized how much safer they feel seeing him in the hallways, lunchroom and at various after school activities and events. He has spent so much time building rapport with our students, I would hate to see it fall by the wayside, with that being said, I do NOT support the action of defunding the police. We need them, now more than ever!

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sincerely,
Carrie A. Phelan, Highpointe Avenue

As a retired Troy Police Sergeant/acting Capt. I would like to comment on the anti-police movement & defunding of police. As an officer I saw that only a very small percent of officers showed any prejudice at all. Even Jesus couldn't find 12 honest disciples. As far as training goes, I don't know of any job that requires more expensive training. Police have to learn almost as much law as lawyers. Most of the public is not as knowledgeable of the law & that I think causes a big problem. Police have to enforce the laws. If the public realized that to be arrested does not mean you are guilty & fight the arrest in court instead of fighting physically & resisting arrest on the street police would not have to use force to do what they have to do.

Respectfully submitted by

Retired Sgt./acting Capt. Ray White, Pompano Drive

I have lived in Troy and worked in Troy my entire life; I grew up primarily in South Troy and now own a business in Lansingburgh, Fitzgerald's Automotive. I have owned and operated there since 2005 and I have needed the assistance of the police on multiple occasions, including car larcenies, vandalism, suspicious people and more. Every time I have picked up my phone to dial 911, the Troy Police Department was there right away. Every time there was a vehicle crash at

the busy intersection of 5th Ave and 117th Street, the Troy Police were there. I have seen a lot in my time, and I know that now, more than ever, we need police presence on our streets. We need patrols, community police, specialized units. The city needs to be cleaned up and order needs to be kept amid the chaos. Good people need help, and they cannot get help if police are defunded.

In summary, I do not support the action of defunding the Troy Police Department. I support the department and what they do daily, and I support their efforts to keep the streets of Troy safe. If the police are defunded, mayhem would ensue, and the effects would be devastating to the city and its residents. I believe our elected officials need to support the members of Troy Police Department for what they have always done, and what they continue to do; faithfully serve and protect our community.

Respectfully,
Dan Fitzgerald, 5th Avenue
Owner of Fitzgerald's Automotive, LLC

Ms. Drogan please make sure my note is read into the record as being against in anyway defending the Troy Police Department. I am a former law enforcement executive from the Capital District, and currently continue working in executive law enforcement position at a local university. I support the Troy Police Department and their daily efforts in making Troy a safer place for all. I do not support the action if defunding the police department. Doing so would be catastrophic to the city. As elected officials please support the members of the Troy Police Department and their efforts to protect the communities of Troy.

Thank you.
Vadim Thomas, 15th Street

As a retired member of the Troy Police Department with more than 35 years of service I implore you to not even consider defunding the Police. This movement having been started with George Floyd's death has been given a life of its own. The people that are touting this have not given a sensible answer to the question "what will we do without the Police". What would be the plan and who will handle the Domestic Violence calls, the auto accidents with dead or injured, the assault and homicide investigations, the burglary in progress calls, the barricaded suspect calls, as well as numerous service calls that the Police handle each and every day. Have there been Police Officers that have killed or assaulted persons wrongly? Absolutely!! And these should be dealt with to fullest extent of the law. Not to belittle these incidents but the number of officers committing these offenses compared to the number of officers who day in and day out do their jobs to the best of their ability is extremely small. Now I know even one of these officers is too many and we need to get rid of them, but to paint all officers with the same brush is not only a disservice to the officer but to the government; city, county, state they are employed by. Please do not give in to this absurdity and support our Police as well as common sense reforms.

Respectfully yours,
Detective Robert J Nuttall, Retired, MacSherry Ct.

As you must be aware, the City of Troy has turned into the OK Coral. It would be bordering on insane to defund the very people who are called upon to take action against those who are determined to destroy the peace, serenity and safety of Troy's residents. I would also think that such a move might open the City to a negligence lawsuit when someone, either citizen or police officer, incurs injury or death that has resulted from such underfunding. I strongly urge the City Council to flatly reject any proposal to defund the Troy police force. I also request that this letter be read aloud at the next city council meeting.

Daniel Purcell, Pawling Avenue

Last week I did hear from Councilperson McDermott in response to previous emails asking her to follow up. Our conversation was not perfect, but it was informative and I appreciated the opportunity to be heard.

As a group you could consider splitting up the list of letter writers that the Clerk has helpfully compiled and following up with each author in order to build productive citizen engagement.

I hope you are listening to all of the "voices" you are hearing from and not grouping all of the authors together. I also hope you are hearing the underlying message in all of these letters, which is that we want a safer Troy.

This city could be made safer by investing directly into the communities that experience disproportionate amounts of violence, instead of investing in the police response that comes afterwards.

Please focus on the ways in which you can make this happen, instead of focusing on the ways in which you cannot.

You are elected leaders. This requires leadership. You are the ones who are being paid to figure out how to make it work. You should be researching solutions and presenting them to us for input, not looking to a community workgroup to come up with ideas that they won't have the power to implement.

-Melissa Bromley, Springwood Manor, Troy, NY 12180

P.S. Councilperson McDermott did let me know that there would be a contract review with the Police Chief and other TPD leadership. Has that happened? Have you found places in which the TPD was not meeting their contract? Let us know!

Please read this email aloud at the Thursday, August 6th meeting and enter it in your records, as this is my heartfelt plea. I am a lifelong resident of Troy, a graduate of Russell Sage College, and a retired teacher in Lansingburgh Central School District. I feel that I am completely vested in this city, as my family has been for generations.

I strongly support the Troy Police Department and demand that any absurd effort to "defund" or reduce their funding in any way be thwarted forever! If anything, additional funding should be allocated to the department at the discretion of the Chief of Police. The administration of the Troy Police Department surely knows the needs of our city and has the proper training to make decisions regarding the safety of our community.

The citizens of Troy deserve a safe, peaceful community, which only a highly trained police force can maintain. I personally have had the pleasure of watching some of the younger members of the Troy Police Force grow into intelligent and compassionate adults. I feel a sense of relief knowing officers such as Sean McMahon, Brent Fane, and Michael Gordon are keeping our city safe! They follow a long line of retired or deceased officers who used training and wisdom to keep Troy as safe as humanly possible!

Once again, I urge you to support our police force and never "defund" it!

Sincerely yours,
Kathleen Gorman, Tibbits Avenue

My name is Seamus Donnelly of 3rd St, downtown Troy. I'm writing this email in support of the Troy Police Department and the men and women that protect and serve our great city. I would like this statement read at this Thursday's City Council Meeting.

Instead of DEFUND the police it should be RETHINK the police. I know to some people that's what it means. But, statements from the last meeting suggest eliminating millions in funding and quite frankly paint our Troy cops as the enemy. The effort to demonize TPD is being spearheaded by the local Democratic Socialist party. One of their top organizers sits with you all on the council. This group has proven before to only care about stirring the political pot in our city. I implore the rest of you to not give into their political pressure and to stand with the majority of your constituents that support our PD. This is a moment that will be remembered by many and not a time to play both sides of the political spectrum.

The focus should be on combating increased gang violence, drugs, absentee landlords, unsafe parks and our crime freeways(alleyways). Supporting the Troy police means you support a safer city, one with increased quality of life for all. You can support the police and people of color at the same time. Are improvements needed in policing? Of course!

Lets train our officers better and longer, let's have cops get out of their cars and learn the people of the neighborhoods they protect, let's get more minorities on the force. We definitely need less bad cops but the vast majority are good, we need more of them now more than ever.

You know what it takes to accomplish all of these things? MONEY! If anything we need a quality of life task force that can tackle issues like Barker Park or troubled corridors riddled with issues.

There's way more than 60 of us residents that know we deserve a city to feel safe in. We deserve a city that a kid should be able to walk a block to his friends house without his mom worrying about him getting shot. We need to come together and realistically approach the problems we face.

Thank you for listening.

Seamus Donnelly, 3rd Street

As Rensselaer County Executive, I am writing in opposition of plans to defund the police, including law enforcement agencies in our county and the City of Troy. I would respectfully ask that my correspondence be included with other correspondence received on this issue and considered by the Troy City Council.

Our police are needed now more than ever, given instances of serious crime in some areas of our region, general unrest across the country and tragic instances of drug abuse and mental health crisis in our population.

Members of law enforcement every day confront situations and realities the majority of society are able to bypass. Our police are required to be protectors, counselors, diplomats, administrators and teachers as they confront a myriad of difficult, challenging and sadly, sometimes tragic and heartbreaking issues.

As a result, our police both bear witness to tragic episodes of the human condition and therefore, bear a burden carried throughout their years both on and off duty. They deserve our support and cooperation as they carry out their difficult but necessary mission.

Rensselaer County residents should be aware of the outstanding service provided both courageously and compassionately by generations of law enforcement in our county. There is no way to accurately measure the enormous good done by our police, the lives saved, the vulnerable protected, the afflicted comforted and the predators thwarted. It is important those good works are allowed to continue.

We see every day the evil that some in our society are capable of afflicting on others. Imagine sending the message to those who are inclined to commit such acts that fewer police are on duty, capable of responding and able to act. Such a reduction in police forces would be damaging and both deeply rejected and deeply felt by the majority of our law-abiding residents. Those who support defunding the police suggest that funds for police be instead allocated to social welfare programs. Those making that suggestion are hopefully aware that New York State spending in this area is already the highest in the nation. This should demonstrate that we cannot simply spend or re-appropriate our way out of complex issues and threats to law and order.

We can also be cognizant that policing is not a perfect science, and that offenses can indeed be committed by the police. Those offenses deserve to be fully and fairly adjudicated within our

justice system. But we should also recognize the enormous damage that can occur if a message is sent that we no longer support our police and have doubts about the value of their work. Our police are often our last defense between good and evil. With that in mind, I offer thanks and appreciation to Troy Police Department Officer Adam Harbour. Just days ago, Officer Harbour quickly came to the aid of a woman while she was under deadly attack and saved her life and possibly the lives and safety of others.

Let Officer Harbour's actions be a guide if any further consideration is given as to whether our police should be defunded. We do not have control over whether good or bad will visit our communities or homes. What we do have control is whether the good men and women of law enforcement like Officer Harbour will be able to rise to the defense of those who are vulnerable.

I thank you for your consideration of this correspondence and appreciate the opportunity to offer my thoughts on this important issue.

Steven F. Mclaughlin, County Executive

My name is Angie Sunkes and I live on Sherman Ave in Troy. I would like to request that my statement be read at this Thursday's Council Meeting. I support the Troy PD!

There's a war going on in our streets and it all leads back to drugs and gang violence. People walking around shooting up in alleyways, & elsewhere. Kids can't go to parks, parents don't even feel safe letting their kids walk their own neighborhood & some non-thinking fools say we need less police, less funding?

Hardly the case - We need more police, we need them walking beats, we need there to be enough that so that they can respond to calls. We need to be Proactive not just reactive.

I encourage the Troy City Council to put MORE into policing NOT less. Please let's be sensible. It'll save lives.

Thank you
Angie Sunkes, Sherman Avenue

My name is Tom Sunkes and I live on Sherman Avenue in Troy I would like to request my statement be read at this Thursday's council meeting I support the Troy police Department - now is not the time to defund our police we need more good cops to combat the violence and blight in Troy - you all should support our officers more not less thank you
Tom Sunkes, Sherman Avenue

My name is Jacob Shipley and I am citizen of Troy at 2nd St.

I am calling on you today at this council meeting to make actionable change within our city. Do not simply fall into the stereotypical and depressingly comical resolution to “make a committee” that will in all likelihood come to the same conclusions that community organizers have been putting forward for years and then still not be listened to. The community has been and will continue to cry out for change, for a reinvestment in our minority and poorer citizens, and for a defunding in the Troy Police Department.

I understand you intend to allocate \$10K for the Neighborhood Improvement Program. This is a great start and I applaud this decision, but by following this up with nearly \$200K in additional funding to an already overfunded police department that causes more damage than it fixes, you are missing the point of the months and years of protests.

We all agree there are serious problems in our communities, but, as evidenced by years of failure, overfunding police doesn't work. Investing in people works. Providing our youth with more opportunities for summer and fall employment works. Repairing abandoned properties and providing low income housing works. Enacting reparations for environmental hazards that disproportionately affect our minority and poorer community members works.

The people who have been suffering most are the ones whose voices need to be heard. Troy 4 Black Lives and other local organizers have provided you with multiple action plans and resources, as well as space to listen to and converse with your citizens. They know best how to help their own communities. Please listen to them.

Sincerely,
Jacob Shipley, 2nd Street

With that being said, I am not a business owner or a homeowner here in Troy, but I am writing this letter as a citizen of Troy who is totally against "**DEFUNDING**" the Troy Police Dept. I was born and raised in South Troy and I currently live on the Eastside in Troy and I am proud to say that my late father, Jack Dwyer and his father Jack Dwyer Sr. BOTH wore the uniform of Troy Police Officer proudly.

I am so baffled why members of the City Council would even think of such a ludicrous idea, this is right up there with the Sanctuary City idea. We need these men and women to help bring the streets of Troy back to the way they were when I was a kid. We were taught to respect, listen and to do what the officer said. If the officer tells to STOP....then you STOP, this is not rocket science!!!! You do not resist, get smart mouthed, grab for their guns, or tasers. If you are in the right, it will come out.

I do think there could be additional training for the Police Dept, but I also think that the parents can also educate their children that a police officer is your friend, they are here to help. Respect, trust and courtesy is a 2 way street. It's funny how some people claim the Police are the enemy, but yet, when THEY need help/assistance, when a family member needs help due to a shooting or a violent crime, who do they call? They call the police!!!! I guess they aren't the enemy now.

I think we need to go back to the days where you saw the police 'walking the beat' stopping to talk to citizens and letting the children know they can count on them to keep them safe. I do know it is a different time compared to the 60's and 70's, but I think we should at least try.

The men and women in blue wear that uniform every day to keep **ALL** citizens of Troy safe from harm. They are the ones who are running into drug houses, the river for a drowning victim, car accidents, domestic violence calls, EDP calls, and murder/suicide calls. Would any of you want to do this? Probably not, most people don't, but these men and women signed up for this because they are a rare breed.

The Troy Police Dept should be highly trained and proficient in handling any situation that may arise. They should have the best equipment, including the best bullet proof vests made. How many of you have gone on a ride a long on the midnight to 8am shift, or any shift for that matter? They never know what is at the other end of a call they are answering going into a dark alley or a business that has a burglar alarm going off, or what about stopping a car? They have no idea if that person has a gun. Their safety in my book is paramount and we as citizens of Troy have a duty to take care of our officers to make them the best they can be.

So, in closing, I am asking the Troy City Council **NOT** to defund the Troy Police Dept. Let's get this resolved with training and dialogue to figure out a solution. They need the funding to keep our children/families, our streets and neighborhoods safe from the riff raff who want to destroy/ruin it. I for one do not want to have to call 911 and to hear the message "I am sorry, no one is available to help you, please leave a message"!!! For those of you who are for this ridiculous idea, would you want to hear this message or have one of your loved ones (elderly parent/grandparent) hear this who is in dire need of help and no one was there because YOU had the Troy Police Dept "defunded"? Could you live with yourselves??? I think not.....

Nora Dwyer, Spring Ave

Founded on the principles of liberty, justice, and the rule of law, the maintenance of our republic is carried out in large part by American law enforcement. As a fully accredited New York State law enforcement agency, The Troy Police Department has been formally recognized as meeting or exceeding general expectations of quality by the state.

We are very fortunate as Troy residents -- the police officers that protect us are already trained in de-escalation techniques, understand what excessive force is, and will intervene if they witness a colleague using excessive force. The police officers in Troy are trained in the proper application of force also, and know to use those techniques only as a last resort.

While the "defunding" activist movement has picked up steam in the past few months, the use of the word "defunding", in reference to the budget for the Troy Police Department, is shortsighted. That single word is divisive, simply because it is one word trying to do the work of the many words needed to address a very complicated situation. Using this one word is great for activists but a poor choice for policy makers.

I challenge you to put yourself in someone else's shoes regarding what the single word "defunding" might mean to them:

- How disheartening it must feel to a group of hardworking first responders who are doing a great job providing an invaluable service to our city.
- How exciting it must be to a career criminal.
- How confusing it must be to a resident, who wonders what would happen if there were fewer police when they actually needed help from law enforcement.

I sincerely hope you will consider the safety of our officers, and the safety of all Troy residents, by giving the Troy Police Department the full financial support they need to do a difficult job effectively.

A strong argument can be made for more police funding to ensure more opportunities exist for police-community interactions. Preserve what is good, root out what is bad. Keep humanity at the forefront. Spend money to help great officers become even better. Cutting funds will only make things worse, for everyone.

Kind regards,
Chuck Breiner, Myrtle Ave

I am writing this letter to state my position in the matter of policing in the city of Troy. I nor my family have ever had any negative interactions with the department but understand this is not everyone's story. I believe that we are in a time where we must look at the way policing is administered and come up with better ways to serve the communities that are in dire need of help. Over policing and under training only leads to more chaos and confusion and systemic racism has done more than enough of that. By not truly vetting officers and not properly punishing those ones who are out of line sends a message that the department condones rogue behavior. We demand safer streets by good cops and not over policing by bad ones. There are issues in black, brown and poor neighborhoods that should have been addressed decades ago but instead more money was given to police departments to militarize them. Let me be clear, "WE MUST REDIRECT FUNDING TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT WILL DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS TAKING PLACE IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY!" There are community organizations that are lead by members of the community that consistently get left out of the conversation concerning funding support and if they are brought up, they never receive nearly the amount of finical support that their hard work produces. These organizations include (but not limited to) Troy Central Little League, The ARK afterschool program, Troy Look, Black Diamond Dancers, Troy Bike Rescue and Team H.E.R.O. just to name a few. These organizations run year-round, at full capacity, with little or no funding from the city but provide a positive experience and produce positive outcomes for the black youth and their families. This is where the city should be making substantial investments.

Sincerely,
Jerry Ford, 2nd Street

I am writing this letter encouraging the City Council to engage community input from civic leaders in Troy who express their desire for a stronger police presence in their neighborhoods. They want School Resource Officers. They want the guns off the street. They want the Mobile Command Center in their neighborhoods.

The Governor has signed an Executive Order for the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention - requiring local police agencies to develop a plan that reinvents and modernizes police strategies and programs in their community based on community input. Each police agency's reform plan must address policies, procedures, practices and deployment, including but not limited to the use of force. This plan must be adopted by April 1, 2021 in order for the department to be eligible for future state funding.

It is imperative that we, the community, become involved in order to rebuild confidence and restore trust between the police and the communities they serve.

The Officers of the Troy Police Department put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. Defunding them is reprehensible. Who will you call in time of crisis?

Do I believe we have a racism issue in this country? Absolutely, but I will tell you that there was an 11,000 large rally in Troy for Black Lives and it went off very peacefully thanks to our local law enforcement and the peaceful demonstrators. I am proud to be represented by the Troy Police Officers and thankful for all they do for us every day.

Sincerely,
Carole Weaver, Stow Avenue
Rensselaer County Legislator

I writing to you to please present my letter to not defund the police. If anything with our increasing crime rate we need more police. Don't send a message to criminals that Troy is more desirable because we have weakened our protection for sidewalks and other non life threatening services. Who would want to come to our city with a weakened Police Dept. Who would want to stay on our Police Dept or even join it with a sense of unappreciation from the residents no decent people or businesses. My whole family here in Troy support our Police you can count this letter as 6. Do all the people wanting this even live or own in Troy? What's at stake involves only those people. The taxpayers. Thank you,

Charlene Dobert. Stow Avenue

Please do not defund the Police Department. If anything, Troy needs more police and fire. Please put your time and efforts into finding us revenue.

Sue Davis, Manor Boulevard

What does defunding any law enforcement agency have to do with George Floyd's death?

The answer is "nothing".

I stand with Troy's police department and the work they do every day to keep our community safe.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Pirro, Country Gardens Apartment

I would like to take this opportunity to state my support for the Troy Police Department (TPD).

I have been a proud citizen and multiple property owner in the city for the entire sixty-one years of my life. I am presently living in our family home on Ida Street in South Central Troy. This house has been in our family for one-hundred years.

As a concerned citizen, I feel we need to continue to support the TPD from a community and financial standpoint. The South Central part of the city definitely has its share of crime and over the past year including a number of violent crimes. In a time when crime is on the increase, it makes no sense at all to decrease support for the TDP. In fact, we should seriously be discussing how we can increase support. I would be eager to be part of this conversation.

As a taxpayer for five properties, I want to know that needed resources are in place which allow the TDP to protect and serve our city as expected.

I can't, and don't care to, imagine a situation where resources are reduced to curtail and directly address crime in my neighborhood. I know the only individuals who would benefit from reducing resources for the TDP are the criminal elements seeking to overrun the city with drugs, guns, assaults, robbery, and violent crimes. I am not in favor of this situation which will wreak havoc on our neighborhoods.

In closing, I truly want to thank the members of the Troy Police Department for serving and protecting all members of our great City of Troy. To our family, TPD efforts do not go unnoticed and we do not take the service they provide to city residents for granted. We support the TPD one-hundred percent and are not in favor of reducing support for the department.

Respectfully,
Sam Chiappone, Ida St.

I live in the hillside neighborhood of Troy. I am writing today with continued questions regarding the new “Reimagine Troy Justice Services Working Group.” It is still quite unclear how this working group will function, particularly the selection of community members for involvement. The working group idea was passed and now we are waiting to understand how it intends to engage with the important and challenging issues raised within the resolution to create it.

One challenge that plagues this working group from before its inception is the fact that all of the members of Troy’s City Council are white. As white people, we cannot comprehend the daily racist micro and macroaggressions that Black and POC people experience. We have to learn to interrogate the mythologies that tell us that racism does not exist. We have immense amounts of work to do to try to comprehend the racism that permeates our thinking, our feeling, our analyzing, our decision making. It is a life-long task that we as white people must take on as a part of the process of challenging white supremacy. The white supremacist ideas that live in our society and within us. The ideas that we pass on to our children. That we pass on through our ordinances and resolutions.

I strongly encourage City Council, as a part of the Troy Justice Services Working Group, to include a mandate of participation in anti-racist and unconscious bias trainings by the city council members. I encourage the City Council to reconsider the VALUE of asking Black and brown community members to participate and share from their lived experiences in this working group. There should be compensation for this labor.

And finally, how will these participants be selected? So far, the rhetoric around participation feels unclear, not really thought out, a lip service to “diversity.” It feels like an important opportunity to hear some challenging voices— invite organizations that are based in and led by Black communities and communities of color, those who are not necessarily affiliated with organizations but who have spent a long time thinking about these issues, those whose missions are explicitly anti-racist in both mission and work.

Finally, the power structure that caters to police is quite evident in much of this discussion. Writing resolutions that purportedly support Black Lives Matter while not addressing the history of systemic racist violence perpetrated by the police reveals this. Speaking the name of George Floyd while refusing to also acknowledge the history of police violence in Troy, the murder of Edson Thevenin, the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald is an example of not taking necessary risks. Of seeing it as politically advantageous to address racism *just enough*, while not doing the hard work necessary to understand the histories (both recent and distant) within the city of Troy and the Capital Region. This includes very much facing the recent and distant histories of police violence in this city and region.

Angela Beallor, Jacob Street

I am writing on behalf of myself, my wife and my 6 month old child. We moved to Troy 1 year ago from New York City with the hope to start a new life in a new community. We reside on Hill Street. I have to say that I am concerned in the current direction the city is taking in regards to its investment in community and police and community relations.

The Ordinance #44 to invest in the Neighborhood Improvement Program, I applaud the City Council in prioritizing funding for Neighborhood improvements, but can I possibly be mistaken? Did the City Council just approve a nearly \$200k increase in the Troy Police Department with nearly all of that going to salaries? but the city can only find \$10k for its neighborhood improvement program? Is this some kind of cruel joke? This is a terrible look and it does appear to me to clearly demonstrate the priorities of the troy city governance. It is cause for deep concern and should be worth a moment of reflection on the part of the city council members. Can we do any better?

I would encourage the rejection of Ordinance #72. The \$20 fee is clearly a poor tax and negatively impacts a specific population of our city. It should not be adopted.

Thank you,

Avi Nagel, Hill Street

I am writing you to address the concerns of the defunding the Troy Police Department. We are at a time in our city that defunding the Troy Police is not an option due to the amount of calls for service and the climate created by the national issues the police face on a local level day in and day out.

As firefighters we rely on the Troy police every day in our job. Whether it be from providing crowd control at fires, car accidents or any other major incident we respond to, on making sure scenes are safe at shootings, stabbings, assaults, domestic violence incidents and drug overdose calls so that we can safely and effectively do our job of treating patients or putting out fires.

If the Troy Police were to be defunded it would greatly affect the safety of our members and the citizens of Troy in our ability to do our jobs on a daily basis.

The brave men and women of the Troy Police Department deserve all the financial support you can give them at the times we are facing as well as our City's public support from our leadership. We as firefighters for the City of Troy encourage you the Troy City Council not to consider defunding the Troy Police Department at this time or at any time in the future. The public needs to feel safe by the level of service the Troy Police currently provide in the future. Defunding them is not an option in keeping our City safe on a daily basis.

Eric Wisher, Fairfield Road
Local 86 President

[UFA Form Letter]

I am a Firefighter with the Troy Fire Department and a member of the Troy Uniformed Firefighters Association Local 86. I am writing you to address my concern with “Defunding the Troy Police Department”. In light of recent events affecting people all across the country including the City of Troy, now is not the time to defund the Troy Police Department or any department for that matter.

As a Firefighter and resident of the City of Troy we rely on the Troy Police every day in our job to provide scene safety on calls that we are on. Whether these calls are shootings, stabbings, drug overdoses, assaults, domestic violence in nature or scene safety at fires, car accidents or any other type of call we need the Troy Police to keep the public at a safe distance for their safety as well as ours.

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As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you not to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,

Matthew Kent, 6th Avenue

[UFA Form Letter]

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As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,

Patrick Ryan, Grant Ave

[UFA Form Letter]

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As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,
Noah Cipperly, Ballina Street

My name is Raquel Velho, and I reside on 4th Street in Troy. Today, we are at just about the two-month anniversary of the historic Troy Rally for Black Lives which united 11,000 people in the streets of our city to proclaim loudly that Black Lives Matter. I write today for a few reasons. One, is to continue to iterate that Black Lives Matter. I'd like to hear this council recognize the role that Troy PD has played in brutalizing Black citizens of this town, including in the killing of Edson Thevenin.

Secondly, I write today in support of ordinance 44 and 57. I have personally seen how the Neighborhood Improvement Program can bring tangible changes to communities. It came as a surprise that the list of applicants and projects wasn't included in the agenda for this meeting and I would appreciate those projects being publicized more broadly. Having perused ones from previous years, this seems to be a great way of continuing small local improvements. It would be wonderful to see this type of work amplified, with potentially an awareness campaign developed regarding the application process and eligibility so more neighborhoods can become involved.

I do not support ordinance 46. I understand that it is difficult to turn down State money, especially when our own local budget needs to keep getting tightened. Yet while every other municipal department continues to tighten their belts, Troy PD have continued to loosen theirs. In light of this council having recently approved the formation of the "Reimagine Troy Justice Services Working Group," to continue to accept additional funds for the Police while we have not yet discussed in what ways we might "reimagine" them seems out of logical order. The same can be said regarding ordinance 53, which I see would support "Various transfers within the Police Department to provide additional funding for the remainder of the 2020 fiscal year." The nature of these transfers is not spelled out, and, again, without having the due

conversations regarding the history and present of Troy Police Department, both of these ordinances ought to be rejected, or at the very least tabled until further discussions occur.

I will add that I am concerned about the Reimagine Troy working group in terms of appointment processes and outreach for recruitment. I have reached out to Councilperson McDermott about how she envisions “diversity” on this group. As I wrote to her, "We have an entirely white city council, in a city that is not so, and in a county that disproportionately polices and arrests Black people and people of color. It seems that those communities most affected by policing ought to be more heavily represented [on this working group]. This is why I continue to ask: will the Public Safety Committee work to ensure that those from communities most affected are represented?"

I am absolutely in support of Resolution 83 and urge you all to pass it. The burning of PFAs-containing foam in our community needs to end immediately. I would also urge the council to pass legislation that would bring about an investigation into the disparate environmental and health impacts of fumes of the Norlite Plant on our community, especially those of North Central Troy.

A couple of class issues have arisen in our City, including Ordinance 50, which I do not support. This ordinance includes a blanket fee on returned checks. I understand the onus on the city in the process of returned checks. However, a blanket fee on all cases is an effective way of hitting communities that are economically disenfranchised. For example, research has shown that NSF fees often hit poor and elderly community hardest through bank surcharges and fees (1), which means that these populations would effectively be paying twice the fees—to the City and to their bank. I would urge the council to think through the ways in which this type of “sound internal control” might be done without this. Acting, especially in times of a pandemic, with radical care and solidarity for our community would mean discussing this ordinance further before passing it for the sake of having it in the books.

This leads me to bring up the issue of Barker Park that has, in this past week, had its benches removed. There has been no public comment from the Mayor or the City Council or Parks and Recreation regarding this move. Members of the public have been shocked by this, with multiple discussions surfacing as to why this has occurred, often pointing to the link between Barker Park and its use by many socially and economically disenfranchised members of our community. This is a much needed public space, that provide a space of rest and shade for many people. It is one of the few spaces in downtown Troy where one doesn't need to pay for a meal or a drink to sit and relax. I wonder what our council makes of this situation, and to ensure that our city is truly inclusive and equitable for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Raquel Velho, 4th Street

(1) Moini, A.H. (1993) "Non-sufficient fund fees: Implications for the poor and elderly." *Mid-Atlantic Journal of Business* 29(3): 339-346

[UFA Form Letter]

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As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,
Aleksandr Katko, Highland Ave.

[UFA Form Letter]

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As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,
David C Judge, Collins Avenue

Dear City Council members,

A Gallup poll released yesterday, has prompted me to write to you to express my thoughts on the “Defund the Police” movement that has evolved over the last few months.

Since I find the results of this poll so interesting, I respectfully ask that this letter is read into the record of tonight’s City Council meeting.

According to the Gallup poll, close to two-thirds, 61 percent, of Black Americans said they want the police presence in their area to remain the same, while 20 percent said they would like to see police spend more time in their neighborhood. Another 19 percent said they would like to see the police presence in their area decrease.

Essentially 81% of Black Americans polled, want police presence in their communities to increase or stay the same.

This begs the question as to why so many non-Black Americans are demanding that communities “Defund the Police”? These same people will tell you that defund the police doesn’t mean eliminate the police. While that may appear to be the case, if you listen to the protests that call for defunding the police, the chants are often followed by “Disarm the Police”, “Eliminate the Police”, and other expletive laden descriptions of the police.

It becomes clear that entertaining any defunding of the police, will only lead to calls to take even further actions against police as time progresses. It is all part of the well-planned, politically driven “Black Lives Matter” movement that was designed to attempt to further divide our communities.

Five days after the horribly wrongful death of George Floyd, Black Lives Matter released the following statement on their website:

"We call for an end to the systemic racism that allows this culture of corruption to go unchecked and our lives to be taken, We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure Black people not only survive, but thrive."

After seeing the Gallup poll, and through my own experiences, I have to wonder who the “Black Lives Matter” movement really represents.

I am not naïve. I don’t believe that all police are perfect. I also realize that some changes in policing policies are necessary. So let’s listen to the Black people in our community, all of them. There are more Black people in Troy than the most vocal ones that lead rallies, and their lives matter too.

Let’s listen to the Black people that were grateful when White officers, and firefighters, valiantly performed CPR on the innocent Donovan Clayton moments after he was struck and killed by a bullet not intended for him.

Let’s also listen to the respondents of the Gallup poll that concluded the following:

"It's not so much the volume of interactions Black Americans have with the police that troubles them or differentiates them from other racial groups, but rather the quality of those interactions."

Most Black Americans want the police to spend at least as much time in their area as they currently do, indicating that they value the need for the service that police provide. However, that exposure comes with more trepidation for Black than White or Hispanic Americans about what they might experience in a police encounter. And those harboring the least confidence that

they will be treated well, or who have had negative encounters in the past, are much more likely to want the police presence curtailed."

During my time in city government, I saw countless positive interactions between Troy Police and the residents of Troy. I was also aware of some interactions that did not go well, or as planned. Those interactions that were negative, were investigated and addressed on a case by case basis, just as they should continue to be.

Policing, like governing, is about constantly adapting and improving policies and procedures. The results of the Gallup Poll reaffirm the beliefs that the focus should be on improving the interactions our police have with the community, and not defunding, disarming, or eliminating the police in our communities. So let's work to adapt, and make any necessary changes to improve future interactions with the police.

While I don't believe that the City Council should ignore its residents, for many months the council has been forced to endure hours and hours of speakers and hundreds of letters about social justice issues. It is time to get back to basics, and get back to governing.

I strongly encourage each of you to return your focus to addressing the quality of life issues in your districts. The condition of our streets and public spaces have deteriorated, and residents are getting frustrated and feeling ignored. While my district council representative has been busy addressing social justice issues, the potholes on her own street aren't being filled. It is simply unacceptable.

As a city, we need to return our attention to governing. We need to support our police because they need it now more than ever. The changes made to bail reform have resulted in criminals being released hours after committing a crime, only to encounter the very same officer that arrested them hours earlier. Our streets are becoming less and less safe as a result, and turning our backs on all of our police, because the actions of a few, is not the answer.

Thank you for your time this evening.

Harry Tutunjian, 24th Street

I am writing to you today as a resident of the City of Troy, in support of defunding the police. I kindly ask for this letter to be read during the City Council meeting this evening. We all know the importance of the Police and law enforcement. I'm not here to speak ill of the police, but speak about the possibilities for our community if we were to reimagine how we spend our money.

I took some time to review the adopted 2020 budget for the City of Troy. I would like to review with you three important departments that received funding through this budget. Firstly, the Troy Police Department received \$20,728,556 this year. The department that handles the potable water supply and repair of water mains for our city, "Public Utilities - Transmission," received \$2,676,013. And lastly, the Youth Bureau, which provides meals, summer programs, and childcare, received a measly \$243,000.

People unfortunately resort to crime when needs relating to housing, education, hunger, and mental illness are not met. People steal, because they cannot afford. People resort to violence, because they haven't been adequately taught how else to resolve conflict. If we took a portion

of the funding that goes into the Police Department, and allocated those funds to the Youth Bureau, we could effectively help our youth (our future) find meaningful, productive ways to spend their time, help them develop a future, and instill in them problem solving and communication skills, while at the same time reducing crime today and in the future. I would also like to point out that *golf courses* received more funds (\$248,129) than our youth. That is alarming to me.

The reason I mentioned the Public Utilities department is because I, like many other residents in the City of Troy, have been affected in some way by water main breaks. They happen quite frequently here in the City, and if more funding was allocated to this department, we could begin investing in better infrastructure for our potable water supply.

These are only two simple suggestions of how to better spend our funds. Defunding the Police Department is not as radical as it may seem. If one wants to know what a community with a defunded police department might look like, you need look no further than the suburbs, where needs of the community are met, and policing is not the priority.

Thank you for your time.

Kylie Spinelli, 103rd Street

I am a lifelong resident of the East side of Troy. I consciously opted to stay here, raise a family and remain here.

Let me start off by saying my opinion is NOT a political statement. My opinion on this matter is practical, quality of MY life issue and the safety of my family and this community.

The idea that any one of you elected by the people of this city, can even consider defunding the police department is ridiculous. The crime in this city has skyrocketed, the police are spread thin as it is and need us to SUPPORT them not slap them in the face. Who will want to come to Troy to live, dine, enjoy a concert, or attend the wonderful farmers market without the assurance of police protection. We have come so far in making Troy a place to be, yet every time we turn around something sets us back.

We pay over \$10,000 in property taxes. We do not get much for our investment in this city right now but we believe that Troy has such potential to once again be great. I want to feel that when I write a check each month for taxes, that i am getting value for my hard earned money.

Major reform does need to happen. This needs to happen with the Police and community working together. This notion of defunding the police to put money in other social service areas of the city has proven time and time again to not be the answer. ALL the improvements to this city are based on socio economic formulas. New sidewalks, home improvement grant money, affordable housing options, free seminars on responsible home ownership, free clinics for

children, free recreational activities and the list goes on. IS this working right now? Has violence decreased? has home ownership increased? I think we know the answer to that question.

We NEED the police. If we don't have them then you will see an out of control anarchy situation. People in this city need to know that when they call 911, there won't be a delayed response. People need to see and know the police are patrolling their communities and neighborhoods, Police need to be around to DETER crime not only fight crime. With any reduction in police capacity, we are facing a SIGNIFICANT THREAT to public safety and all its residents and guests. Reduction of police will increase FEAR or crime, render victims HELPLESS, and wreak havoc on our community.

Are these the words you want associated with Troy? THREAT, FEAR, HELPLESS.?

Anne Marie, Dave, Anthony, Arianna and David Judge, Collins Avenue

I am reaching out because I would like this to be read at the City Council meeting. I have and always will support the Troy Police Department, they do a excellent job supporting and protecting this city.

Thank you.
Sean Donnelly, 39 Euclid Ave.

My name is Jonathan Shannon of 3rd St, downtown Troy. I'm writing this email in support of the Troy Police Department and the men and women that protect and serve our great city. I would like this statement read at tonights City Council Meeting.

I have seen drug dealers sell in my alley and people using Barker Park as their bathroom. I'm all for positive change but what we need is to get behind our police now more than ever. I feel it's the only way we see this city clean up.

I ask the council to support our police and stand against calls to DEFUND.

Thank you
Jonathan Shannon, 3rd St

[UFA Form Letter]

I am a Captain with the Troy Fire Department and a member of the Troy Uniformed Firefighters Association Local 86. I am writing you to address my concern with "Defunding the Troy Police Department". In light of recent events affecting people all across the country

including the City of Troy, now is not the time to defund the Troy Police Department or any department for that matter.

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As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,
Gerald T. Vogt Jr, Tibbits Avenue

To the Troy City Council--

I own a home on 1st Avenue in Lansingburgh and work at The Sanctuary for Independent Media in North Central Troy, less than a mile downwind from the Norlite toxic waste incinerator.

For decades, people in Troy have been subjected to essentially unmonitored hazardous waste burning just across the Hudson River in Cohoes. Prevailing winds bring the smoke directly into the North Central neighborhood. This is a classic environmental justice issue. A multinational corporation is making millions at the expense of the poor and working people in Troy.

Please pass Resolution 83 urging Gov. Cuomo to sign the bill prohibiting incineration of PFAS at Norlite. I also support the Troy 4 Black Lives call to identify and repair the harm caused by years of dangerous pollution coming from Norlite.

This scandal has been covered by the local, national and international press. The time has come to seize control of our own health and destiny.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all of us.

Steve Pierce, 1st Avenue

I have lived in Troy me entire life and am proud of where I come from. When I first heard about Defunding the police, I thought how could this actually be a thing? Who is going to answer these calls? Who is going to help my neighbor when they have an emergency? They are, and

have been short staffed as far as I can remember and now we want to take funding away from their program?

Instead of defunding the police we should be funding for more hands on training. More resources available for our police officers so they can actually put their feet to the pavement and walk throughout our streets and be more personable with our community. What happened to when we could have police officers riding their bikes or even a horse down the streets like Sergeant Carello. You saw a familiar face and felt comfortable. They were there supporting our community but stepping in as an authority figure when needed.

Give them more training for mental health situations, how to handle a hostile situation or even how to deescalate a situation. Most careers you go through the training process and that's it. You are then officially on your own. This shouldn't be the way, these men and woman keep us safe. Situations change, techniques change and we have to stay on top of our training.

We need police officers in schools, walking the halls, learning who these kids are and keeping them safe. We always had a police officer in our halls and it made you feel safe. He knew everyone and they could approach him with a concern or just a conversation. They should be able to have enough staff to monitor at a football game to make fans feel safe and keep kids in control. We have middle schoolers fighting teachers these days, that's not ok.

Defunding the police is going to make the crime rates worse. Who is going to answer calls when stores are being burglarized? Who is going to help your neighbor when they just had an altercation with their spouse?

We need to work together as a community to keep our families safe, our police officers safe and our community safe. We need to take troy back by backing up and supporting our police officers.

Thank you,
Chuck Tremblay, Sherman Avenue

As a resident of the City of Troy and a manager of a Troy business I am appalled that "Defunding the Police" is even on the table for a vote. The City of Troy needs to increase funding of the Police Department. We count on these officers day in and day out to keep ourselves, residences and businesses safe. There have been so many shootings, drug overdoses, drug sales, burglaries, domestic incidents, arsons in this city lately. This is not a time where the Police Department needs to be defunded. I know that as a resident I do NOT feel safe in this city on most days. That is not a good feeling to have with the amount I pay in taxes to live here.

I would personally like to thank each and every member of the Troy Police for the job you do each day. Thank You! I believe in the integrity of the Police Department, and hope that they have the utmost regard for the community they are serving.

I feel that "Defunding the Police" is not an option at this time. It would be a complete disservice to this community!

Allison Mahar, 6th Avenue

Everytime I turn on the TV I see how there is another shooting in Troy. People are out here with no regard towards any bystander. It is disgusting. If anything, you need to give the Troy PD MORE FUNDS! As a new father and person who grew up in Troy, I just cannot believe how bad things are in my hometown. I for one do not want me son growing up in a place where shootings and hang violence go unchecked.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Resident Of TROY NEW YORK.
David Gwinn, Oakwood Avenue

We are writing to show our support of the Troy Police Department. Growing up in South Troy we have never felt scared or feared for our own welfare because of the professionalism and presence that Troy PD has had in the City of Troy. Now this is all at stake, I fear what will become of Troy if we were to lose this presence. I fear for my daughter, who will grow up in a lawless city. Like the cities you see now on the news running rampant with theft, vandalism, and violence. Please don't let Troy, our Troy succumb to this by defunding them. We need Police presence now more than ever to keep our city safe.

We don't stand behind the Troy Police, We don't stand in from of them. We stand with them!!

Taxpayers and loyal citizens
Jen and David Harrington, Hoosick Street

This letter is to address the slogan "Defunding the Police." This letter will attempt to answer: What is the meaning behind the words "Defund the Police" The NAACP Troy Branch understands that defunding the police does not mean stripping a department entirely its budget or abolishing it altogether. To do something of this magnitude would not be in the best interest of any citizens.

The intent behind this slogan is to bring to the forefront the way we police in this country. The intention is to initiate conversations between community members affected by inadequate public safety services and those who are responsible for the administering of the serves. The conversations need to be about how to improve the way public safety managed law

enforcement issues. We all want the same thing, to live in peace and harmony; feel safe in our communities and homes.

This topic has become a divisive, and it should not have. Now is not the time for us against “them” mentality. The boiling point frustration and fear have been reached, hence the protests and marches. Now is an opportunity for all parties involved to evaluate their role and position on this topic. Now is a chance for the city administrator to assess whether the officers are provided the training and tools needed to protect and serve the community they took an oath to serve and protect. Now is a great time to review the policies and procedures to ensure that fair treatment is guaranteed for all.

The data shows that things need to change to improve the relationship between law enforcement and the black community. Past actions have eroded trust. To make this community a place to feel safe, there must be corrective actions that match the words spoken. For example, does an officer know when and how to de-escalate a situation. To do the work effectively you should use the correct tools and skill set.

It is time for an evaluation and realignment of the management in the area of public safety of all Troy citizens. It is time for communication and commitment to making our community a safe and desirable place to live. And reallocate funds as necessary to make the entire city run efficiently to protect and serve its citizens.

Our word is our bond. We all have a responsibility.

Sincerely,
Renee Powell, President, NAACP Troy Branch

My names Anthony, I’m one of the owners from Manory’s. I’m also a student at Albany Medical College. I live at 4th street Troy, NY.

I won’t waste your time with a long email as my stance is simple.

Defunding the police, in any way, is absolute insanity. DO NOT DEFUND THE TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Thank you,
Anthony Marchese, 4th Street

I Sharon Bidwell am writing this to help our Troy Citizens. I'm asking that we do NOT take away our rights to have Police Officers when needed especially in this time of crisis. I support and defend keeping them in place. Defunding Police Officers who protect us is a Shame.
Sharon Bidwell, Crockett Ave

I have lived in Troy me entire life and am proud of where I come from. With all the recent events that have taken place this year it makes you worried what is coming next. When I first heard about Defunding the police, I thought how could someone think like this? Who is going to answer these calls? Who is going to help my neighbor when they have an emergency? They are short staffed enough and now we want to take more money away from their program? This made me start thinking of ways we can help make the community feel safe while also keeping our police offers safe. Instead of defunding the police we should be funding for more hands on training. More resources available for our police offers so they can walk throughout our streets and be more personable with our community. Be able to stop and play a game of basketball with some kids. See a family struggling, stop and see what they can do to help. Give them more training for mental health situations, how to handle a hostile situation or even how to deescalate a situation. Most careers you go through the training process and that's it. You are then officially on your own. This shouldn't be the way, these men and woman keep us safe. Situations change, techniques change and we have to stay on top of our training. Troy has become a scary place to live. I personally refuse to drive in downtown anymore. This makes me sad, I grew up down there. I played in the parks until the street lights came on. I knew everyone in my neighborhood. Defunding the police is going to make the crime rates worse.

We need to work together as a community to keep our families safe, our police officers safe and our community safe. We need to take troy back by backing up and supporting our police officers.

Thank you,
Amanda Tremblay, Sherman Avenue

Scrolling through Facebook, I came across a high school classmates post regarding the upcoming City Council meeting to be held August 6th 2020, His post came off as passionate to me, and I felt all the love in his words of reason for his CITY !

I came to Troy in the year 2000. I am a Trojan Grad Class of '04, my oldest daughter will graduate 2021 from Troy High School. I have 3 younger children as well. Never having a thought of leaving this city I've grown to love for the past 20 years. I want safer streets here. I want to be able to address officers in my neighborhood with a friendly hello. I want and need to feels safe in the streets I walk with my children. As well as feel safe when I am in need of assistance from or with police officers.

With all things in chaos Nation Wide, I choose to support our officers here, in my City where my family resides. I am not in favor of totally defunding, I am in favor of our police officers having necessary equipment to conduct their jobs daily as well as safely to also get bck home to their loved ones. Rethink and prioritize.

A Troy Resident
Tia Greene, Spring Avenue

Kristoph Di Maria

ATTN: Mara Drogan, City Clerk

[TO BE READ ALOUD AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING 8/6/2020]

NIP it in the bud. Defund the Police.

Good Evening Council Members Eileen McDermott, Ken Zalewski, Anasha Cummings, Sue Steele, Kim Ashe McPherson, Jim Gulli, Caramella Manatello, and Mayor Patrick Madden, in no particular order,

I am Kristoph DiMaria, a resident on 2nd Street in South Troy. It is downright disheartening that our community has to come to you yet again with public commentary regarding your continued egregious ignorance in addressing our questions, our demands, our health and well-being. Along with your frequent lack of transparency, this seems to suggest that you have made the decision to neglect many of your constituents. Our residents want to know:

What is your investment in this community? Demonstrate that you care about us by immediately freezing any and all additional funding for the Troy Police Department. Reallocate \$10 million from the Troy PD's Budget and put it to community services and projects led by Black communities most impacted by violent policing. Center them in this discussion. Begin to do the real work of ending your complicity within structural violence and ensure our BIPOC residents that they will not have to continue to fear for their lives just by living within the city limits. The excessive Troy PD Budget could be redistributed to :

- Food security projects, including expanded municipal compost, that provide neighborhoods with even further localized healthy produce, bulk staples, educational opportunities, land transformation, waste reduction and community empowerment.
- Rehabilitate Prospect Park's rundown appearance and offerings to ensure a viable place for families to play and for our city's verdant cultural offerings to be performed.
- Better repair and maintain sidewalks, street lights, potholes and infrastructure - especially in North Central and South Troy
- Support community organizations focused on facilitating ownership of land, housing, and business spaces for BIPOC residents.
- Commit to harm reduction programs that destigmatize addiction to opioids and other substances while working to provide employment, housing, and mental/health services.
- Transform abandoned or underutilized buildings into housing that builds equity for houseless and BIPOC residents by focusing on eventual ownership, even cooperatively.

Committing to programs that provide constructive relief, equity, and empowerment better the conditions of living for all residents in Troy, though it is essential that these programs

prioritize BIPOC as these members of our community are the most disproportionately negatively affected by the systemic oppression omnipresent throughout American history. Committing to a burgeoning police budget that does not effectively address the concerns of residents regarding their survival, health, well-being, and happiness is indeed an ugly scar on the face and in the heart of our city.

Do not resolve Ordinance 46 unless moving that money into these community projects. We do not need expanded surveillance and divisive infrastructural policing of our residents. Ordinance 44's NIP grant budget of \$10k is barely a drop in the bucket compared to the \$197k for Ordinance 46, with most of it going to pensions and benefits and only \$2k to curtailing gun violence. Think about the message that sends.

Stop Norlite from burning more toxic chemicals. We DEMAND the City Council take direct action in identifying and repairing the harm caused by years of dangerous pollution. How are North Central residents being compensated for this immuno-compromising injustice leading up to a global pandemic that disproportionately affects people with compromised immune systems?

Stop the poverty tax of bounced check fees. Take the \$16k from Rensselaer County and use it to expand public transportation infrastructure for holiday use instead of more DWI screenings.

I write to you all today in solidarity and support with the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives. The City Council has yet to address these demands outside of placating language or furtive silence, nor the historic rally last month of 11,000 people. The City Council continues to be complicit in the murder and harm of Black people in Troy. We need action.

We remember the lynching of Edson Thevenin and the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald by Troy police, as well as the subsequent coverups by Mayor Madden, district attorneys, and other Troy officials. We will continue to be intolerant and active against these injustices.

Defund Troy Police now! Invest in Black Communities!

Sincerely,

Kristoph DiMaria

please consider listening to the eleven thousand people that marched in Troy to support Black Lives Matter and start defunding the Police Department immediately.

I am really concerned that Edson Thevenin, and Dahmeek McDona's murders are still actively being covered up with the tax dollars that we pay.

I support all the requests put forward by "Troy 4 Black Lives", they are just plain common sense for real change.

I am also demanding that you provide a clear mechanism for the public to be able to file complaints against city employees when they unfortunately retaliate or behave in racist, and/or inappropriate behaviour.

How is this city going to change if you don't have a process for the public to tell you what is happening?

How are you even going to know what employees behave in disrespectful and racist manners if you don't provide a trackable procedure for feedback?

It was not that long ago that this city hired, as Corporation Counsel, two Troy Judges that were kicked out of the bench for extortion, and for repeated violations of the civil rights of Troy's residents. With that history, you have a duty to investigate and proactively establish processes to change the ingrained and well established culture of abuse in this city establishment.

Last but not least, I am very concerned also with the removal of the benches at Barker Park without any effort by the city to provide resources for drug users first.

Thank you for your time and cooperation,
Rafael Varela, Hill Street

My name is Laura Rabinow and I live on Madison Street, in District 5, in South Troy. I wrote to you ahead of the last two meetings of the City Council,

City Councilmembers,

I write in support of ordinances 44 and 57 and the great work I have seen done in South Troy through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

I also write to reiterate my concerns regarding changes to funding for the Troy Police Department - with respect to ordinances 46 & 53 - without first giving due consideration of widespread calls from residents over the last two months to redirect meaningful portions of funding from the department towards longstanding and underfunded community needs.

And, finally, I write in strong support of Resolution 83. As someone who has studied the scientific history, impacts, and public policy of PFAS, the burning of PFAS-containing firefighting

foam near our community (or in any community) should not be allowed to occur. We both know enough to know how dangerous it is, and not enough to have reasonable certainty about our ability to prevent additional exposures through burning.

Over 2 million gallons of firefighting foam were already burned at the Norlite plant in Cohoes, just across the river from the North Central neighborhood, we should act to ensure that never happens again. PFAS are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative, and they have been linked to a number of negative human health outcomes. We have already watched our neighbors in Hoosick Falls grapple with PFAS pollution for the last five years, and we should ensure that no one else in Troy, Cohoes, or any other community has to do the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Rabinow, Madison Street

My name is Raurri Jennings, and I live on 4th Street in Troy. Today, we are at just about the two-month anniversary of the historic Troy Rally for Black Lives which united 11,000 people in the streets of our city to proclaim loudly that Black Lives Matter and also to seek justice for the murder of Edson Thevenin and the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald by the Troy Police Department. The residents of this city spoke loudly and clearly on that day in support of justice and a new approach to policing in our communities.

There are several ordinances up for discussion in tonight's meeting that are inextricably linked to racial justice in our city. I would like to take a moment to address each one.

I support of ordinance 44. I have personally seen how the Neighborhood Improvement Program can bring tangible changes to communities. It came as a surprise that the list of applicants and projects wasn't included in the agenda for this meeting and I would appreciate those projects being publicized more broadly. I also believe that \$10,000 is a start, but not enough for this program. Every single member of the city council campaigned on his or her love for Troy's neighborhoods. I am writing to the council to not only increase this amount, but also to be more proactive and devote more time to listening to community leaders about how these funds could be put to use.

I do not support ordinance 46. I understand that it is difficult to turn down State money, especially when the municipal budget is strapped. Yet while every other municipal department tightens their belts, the Troy Police Department's budget only grows larger. In light of this council having recently approved the formation of the "Reimagine Troy Justice Services Working Group," it is wrong to continue to accept additional funds for the Police while we have not yet discussed the ways we might "reimagine" them. The same can be said regarding ordinance 53, which I see would support "[various] transfers within the Police Department to provide additional funding for the remainder of the 2020 fiscal year." The nature of these transfers is not spelled out, and, again, without having the important conversations regarding the history and present of the Troy Police Department, both of these ordinances ought to be

tabled until the Reimagine Troy Justice Services Working Group has been formed and further discussion can occur.

I will add that I am also concerned about the formation of the Reimagine Troy Justice Services Working Group in terms of appointment processes and outreach for recruitment. How will members of this working group be selected? Will it include over 60% representation of black and brown community members? Will the council table discussions related to the police budget until the working group has had a chance to weigh in? Will they be compensated for their public service like the members of the city council?

I am absolutely in support of Resolution 83 and urge you all to pass it. The burning of PFAs-containing foam in our community needs to end immediately. Over the course of many years Norlite has burned over 2 million pounds of PFAs. These compounds have been identified through various scientific studies to increase the rate of ulcers, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, pregnancy-induced hypertension, and prostate, testicular and kidney cancer. The compounds have also had demonstrated impacts on human fertility, fetal growth, and development of immune responses in infants and children. I would also urge the council to pass legislation that would bring about a long-term epidemiological study of the health impacts of fumes from the Norlite Plant on our community, especially those of North Central Troy. The city should partner with Federal and State environmental and health agencies to study the effects of the pollution from Norlite and seek justice for the residents it has harmed.

I would also ask the city council to direct the Department of Public Works to return the benches to Barker Park.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Raurri Jennings, 4th Street

[UFA Form Letter]

I am a Firefighter with the Troy Fire Department and a member of the Troy Uniformed Firefighters Association Local 86. I am writing you to address my concern with "Defunding the Troy Police Department". In light of recent events affecting people all across the country including the City of Troy, now is not the time to defund the Troy Police Department or any department for that matter.

As a Firefighter and resident of the City of Troy we rely on the Troy Police every day in our job to provide scene safety on calls that we are on. Whether these calls are shootings, stabbings, drug overdoses, assaults, domestic violence in nature or scene safety at fires, car accidents or any other type of call we need the Troy Police to keep the public at a safe distance for their safety as well as ours.

The brave men and women of the Troy Police Department deserve all the financial support they can get at a time like this, no unwarranted calls for defunding them in a time of

national crisis. No taxpayer in this city would be safe if the Troy Police were defunded to a level below what they are at now.

As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,
Matthew F. Ryan, Pinewoods Avenue

My name is Dr. Eric "Guy" Schaffer, and I live at 2nd St in Troy. I am writing to express my hope that Troy will work to develop a budget and policies that will stop prioritizing our over-funded police department, with its history of violence and corruption, and instead invest in efforts that support and uplift our Black communities. I also want to address two other issues around the taxing of poverty and the poisoning of Black and low-income communities.

First, in regards to Ordinance 46, which amends the budget to accept an additional \$197,000 from New York State for the Troy Police Department, I encourage you to instead invest that money toward programs that would actually benefit our overpoliced neighborhoods. It is widely recognized that the Troy Police Department, like many police departments nationwide, has received a disproportionate amount of taxpayer money in comparison to programs like housing, health services and education that are intended to support, rather than punish, people of color and low-income people.

There is no reason to increase the police budget during the time of pandemic. Now is a time to support our communities, not to intimidate them.

- Invest in youth employment programs instead: ensure that 100% of eligible youth can participate in summer and fall employment. Invest in education programs and mentoring programs that can help to build community.
- Invest in parks and recreation: open every pool in Troy and create safe, fun public spaces for children and youth.
- Invest in housing: create programs that can restore abandoned properties and care for properties that are falling into disrepair on account of negligent landlords. Create housing for low income and houseless people. This is more important than ever during the pandemic. If you are concerned about public safety, I ask you to please move away from the unfounded assumption that increased policing makes communities safer. Police do not make communities safer, resources make communities safer.

I also want to encourage action on two other issues:

First, Ord. 72, to institute a \$20 penalty on bounced checks received by the city, should never have been considered. This is an obvious tax on poverty, and hurts poor people who are trying to pay bills. What use is it to anyone to punish people for having insufficient funds? Anyone who supported it should be ashamed of their blatant disregard for the well-being of Troy's poor people, at a time of widespread unemployment and economic instability. I strongly encourage that you reject this and any other legislation that is intended to hurt poor people. It would be useful for you all to try to learn more about systemic poverty.

And last, in regards to the impacts of the Norlite Plant in Cohoes, which has been putting dangerous PFAS compounds into the atmosphere, which has impacted the health of all Troy

residents, but particularly the residents of North Central. In addition to a litany of other health impacts, PFAS compounds are known to be immunosuppressive--a deadly violence in a time of global pandemic. I demand that the city take immediate action to make reparations for the environmental racism and injustice caused by the Norlite facility--to identify its impacts (in a way that centers community knowledge) and to repair the harm that has been caused.

I am writing in solidarity with the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives. The City Council has done nothing to address these demands, nor the historic rally in June of 11,000 people. The City Council continues to be complicit in the murder and harm of Black people in Troy.

Defund Troy Police. Invest in Black Communities. Stop taxing poverty. Work toward environmental justice.

I know you are capable of this, and I hope to see each of you do everything you can to make Troy a more just city.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Guy Schaffer, 2nd Street

My name is Sean Fagan and I live and work in Downtown Troy. I work at Brown's Brewing Company on the weekends and for Web Scribble which is a local software company. As someone who is constantly walking around and enjoying this great city, I would encourage you to please do not defund the troy police.

Troy's Police force is already stretched pretty thin which would be an understatement from my understanding. One of the reasons why Troy has been able to bounce back and become the cream of the crop in the area is its thriving downtown which has attracted people from all over to the region to come in and spend their hard-earned money. Why do you ask? Because it is safe. Safe for someone to start a business, safe for those who don't live here to come and visit the shops, the bars, and restaurants. Plain and simple if people don't feel safe they won't come here.

I understand there has to be a lot to work on this topic and that is out of my expertise. However, defunding the police may not be the answer for Troy. I can't speak for the rest of the country but I can speak for my neighborhood and a place I've grown up my entire life. This simply isn't the answer if we want to continue to be the premier place to visit and live in the area. Case in point look at Albany.

Best Wishes,

Sean Fagan, 1st Street

I am a resident of Troy on 2nd street downtown. I have little time to write this letter, but feel I must at the very least quickly point out my continued disappointment in the Council member to not realize the continue abuse and dehumanization our neighbors consistently face from Troy Police Department. Even if you continue to insist that you know most officers in the

department are good and they try their best, the system, across the nation that they are part of fundamentally only exist to enforce a history, or development, of hierarchy of racism and classism that weaponizes all police, no matter how 'nice' too see our neighbors as a subject to be policed and even killed at their discretion. Meanwhile plants across the the river pollute our communities, and while our state and city face a budget shortfall that will be disastrous, the rich in our state refuse to be taxed, and companies that run assisted living homes allow their residences to needlessly suffer and die and fire the nurses who stand up for them. These factories, these mega-millionaires and billionaires who control our Governor do more harm to our community and neighbors than anyone within our city, but why do the cops not go and investigate and police the polluters, or the tax dodgers who hide in the Hampton's. Why do they not help the nurses and the elderly being harmed by companies that shoddily run homes. It's because they serve the corporations and the rich, and not us.

Also, fine, even if you believe in chasing good money after bad into a police department that never seems to improve or get rid of bad apples no matter how much money is poured in. A department that wields so much power and sucks so much resources must face intense, democratic oversight by the people they patrol and can kill at will. Release the information the Troy DSA issued FOILs for. We deserve to know how our money is being used.

Additionally I encourage you to **immediately freeze** additional funding for the Troy Police Department and **reallocate \$10 million from the TPD Budget to community services.**

We remember the lynching of Edson Thevenin and the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald by Troy police, as well as the subsequent coverups by Mayor Madden, district attorneys, and other Troy officials.

Defund Troy Police now! Invest in Black Communities!

Sincerely,

Mickey Dobbin, 2nd Street

I reside at 4th St. here in Troy.

I plan on living here for the rest of my life. I'm deeply dedicated to my students at RPI and am invested in playing a small part in helping build towards a more anti-racist workplace and towards a city where all Black lives matter.

I will keep this brief and simply say that I have read all of the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives closely and strongly support each and every one of them. I am dismayed that so little has been done after the massive and inspiring rally last month of 11,000 people. But, of course, the important organizing that made that rally so successful has been happening for a long time, and we are far long past overdue for a meaningful response to these demands.

I also think it is important to keep the names of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald at the forefront of these conversations, along with the many other lives that were lost or severely impacted by police violence.

Finally, I know not everyone will agree with the call for defunding police. I have come around to believe that this is incredibly important myself. But I hope that even those that disagree with me on that point will support the call to invest in Black communities. Many of the demands in front of you today (and yesterday, and tomorrow, and they're not going away) are go far beyond reducing harm from policing. They are demands that, if met, will vastly grow our collective capacity for changing underlying conditions.

These demands for different conditions are completely within our reach if we just have the will and will make policing at the scale many have come to accept as "normal" completely unnecessary, so people have the resources to tackle more of their own challenges, and so we can all have a more vibrant city that works for everyone.

Thanks for your consideration,

Brandon Costelloe-Kuehn, 4th Street

[UFA Form Letter]

I am a Captain with the Troy Fire Department and a member of the Troy Uniformed Firefighters Association Local 86. I am writing you to address my concern with "Defunding the Troy Police Department". In light of recent events affecting people all across the country including the City of Troy, now is not the time to defund the Troy Police Department or any department for that matter.

As a Captain and resident of the City of Troy we rely on the Troy Police every day in our job to provide scene safety on calls that we are on. Whether these calls are shootings, stabbings, drug overdoses, assaults, domestic violence in nature or scene safety at fires, car accidents or any other type of call we need the Troy Police to keep the public at a safe distance for their safety as well as ours.

The brave men and women of the Troy Police Department deserve all the financial support they can get at a time like this, no unwarranted calls for defunding them in a time of national crisis. No taxpayer in this city would be safe if the Troy Police were defunded to a level below what they are at now.

As a resident and Troy Professional Firefighter I encourage you **not** to Defund the Troy Police Department.

Very Truly Yours,
Gary Fernet , Lincoln Avenue

As a tax paying citizen in the City of Troy, residing on Maple Ave and owning rental property in South Troy, where I grew up, I am writing in opposition of plans to defund the police. I would like this message to be read aloud at the next City Council Meeting in hopes that it will raise concerns that I know many of my fellow citizens share. Now, more than ever, we need to support the men and women that put their lives on the line everyday to protect us Trojans and

the property that we own in this community. I first hand have witnessed the destruction that can ripple through a neighborhood when policing efforts are minimized. Drug deals, serious crimes and quality of life issues will continue to be a cancer in this city if we now decide to, even more so, limit the funding that our police department needs to protect us.

I know we have faced our challenges recently in regards to poor policing efforts across the nation, but I think as a local community, it is very short sighted to think that we fit the same mold. Let's take a step back, take a deep breath and not make some knee jerk decision that will have a lasting negative effect on this great city we all love. I would like to challenge the City Council, along with the Mayor's office, to look at increasing funding as it pertains to our department. Having friends and family members in the department itself, I have had numerous conversations in regards to the struggles that these great men and women face on a day to day basis. Whether it be a limited amount of police on duty to cover a vast area in the city, or lack of funding to provide proper equipment to keep the officers efficient in their duties, defunding at this point in time, will only add to a stressed situation within the department.

In closing, I would like the citizens of Troy and the members of the City Council to take a second and think about a time where you have called 911 to get support from the Troy PD. Think about the danger that you were in, think about how you felt before picking up the phone to dial 911, remember the rush of adrenaline that was running through your body, remember the feeling of sweat in the palm of your hands, remember how the seconds felt like hours and the minutes felt like days. Will someone ever be here to help?! Now think about that same situation without having the Police to call. What would the end result be? Defund the Police and you will find out.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing the support from our council and The Mayor's Office to our Police Department as a result of this letter.

Josh Chiappone, Maple Avenue

My name is Brad Stevens and I am a resident and business owner of Troy. I am writing in support of the Troy Police Department. I've hosted many events for the Troy Police Benevolent Association (PBA) and gotten to know the officers on a professional and personal level.

In light of current events there's a strong demand to defund the police. This phrase "defund the police" is so vague that without clarity it will do more harm than good.

Reform is greatly needed however pulling the police out of certain neighborhoods and schools would be disastrous. I think the exact opposite is needed; we need more police on the streets to reduce crime rates. Better policing and more policing can complement one another.

Our police force can prioritize community well-being and safety but the solution is not by redirecting funding. This could easily increase crime instead of reducing it.

Thank you for your time,

Brad Stevens , 5th Avenue
B-rad's Bistro & Catering

As a resident of Troy, I feel a responsibility to try and parse out the meaning of these ordinances, contribute my thoughts, and show up to the meetings. The ordinances are difficult to understand, maybe by design, and the meetings are long and tedious (and from comments made by some of the council members themselves, it seems we are in agreement on this). But I walk away with a glimmer of hope which I glean from the letters of fellow constituents, and in the accompanying chat. I hear and see the names of people I know in the community and people who I am getting to know in the community. They are imaginative, empathetic, intelligent, and creative, and I hope to see some of these names on future ballots.

While I support 10k for Neighborhood Improvement (ordinance 44), it's clear to me that we have very different ideas of what it means to improve a neighborhood. This is made evident by ordinance 46, which amends the budget to accept an additional 197k for the police department, even as the nation becomes more galvanized in its efforts toward defunding the police. There is now an abundance of support for defunding the police and an overwhelming amount of evidence proving that over policing yields disastrous results (especially for Black and BIPOC communities), and over 11,000 protestors took to the streets of Troy on June 7th in agreement. I am one of them and I am one hundred percent against ordinance 46.

While to some, the idea of defunding the police may seem radical, to many it is merely common sense and many cities are already doing so. Reallocating funds away from the police and toward community programs such as improving mental health, helping those with addiction, eradicating homelessness, creating work infrastructure, and ensuring education equity are just a few programs I would be happy to see my tax dollars go toward. How about forgivable loans for Black-owned businesses? How about building a grocery store in South Troy? Doesn't it make more sense to try to create a world in which we don't need the police? It's our responsibility to each other to envision a city with living conditions that are decent and fair for everyone.

Please, listen to the people of Troy who envision an equitable and just city for all it's residents.
Please, talk to Troy 4 Black Lives and make them part of the process.
Please, stop supporting a status quo that doesn't work and only causes harm.
Please, use your imaginations, be empathetic, be creative, ask for help.

These meetings don't have to be long and tedious. These meetings could be an exciting back and forth exchange of ideas from members of the council and members of the community where we all feel energized by the idea of creating a city of togetherness and solidarity, where everyone is safe, fed, heard, gainfully employed, seen and celebrated.

Jennifer Bartels, 2nd Street

p.s. While I'm in support of Ordinance 83 re: banning of firefighting foam at the Norlite facility in Cohoes, what does the city of Troy plan on doing to assess the damage already done to the health of its residents, and in what ways will it seek to assist in repairing said damages?

In regards to Ordinance 72 re: bounced check fee. How can we help those with insufficient funds and not penalize them? Can we set up a payment plan? Can we set up a website where those with means can pay the bounced check fees as a form of donation/reparations/community service?

I'm a resident of Troy and live downtown on 2nd street. In regards to ordinance 46, can the council provide the public with more information on how the GIVE funds will be implemented to reduce gun violence in Troy? Who makes these discretionary decisions, and are they taking into consideration the public demand for redirecting resources away from increased policing towards community investment? Since the agency is tasked to employ "at least two of the following evidence-based strategies: hot-spots policing, focused deterrence, street outreach and crime prevention through environmental design," can the council provide more information about how these funds will be used, and to what extent discretion is involved? What does "street outreach" and "environmental design" mean in this context? Will these funds be spent in ways that align with Governor Cuomo's executive order No. 203 which calls for Troy's police agency to "promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color"?

Regards,
Brandon Tankersley, 2nd Street
Instructor, English Department
University at Albany, SUNY

I am a writer and the city's history has long been a topic of my curiosity. How did we get a mall smack in the middle of downtown? How did we get such a serious bridge escorting cars onto Hoosick Street? My questions today, however, focus on the present. More than 2 months after George Floyd's death, America is grappling with the habitual racism that was at the root of those horrible 8 minutes and 46 seconds in Minneapolis. Change is beginning to happen across the nation, including an acknowledgement of that tragedy by our governing bodies. However, 50 months after Edson Thevenin's death, the City of Troy is not

acknowledging the conditions that led to our own racist tragedies, such as that of Mr. Thevenin, and Dahmeek McDonald. Beyond acknowledgment, we need to act upon solutions that will begin to unravel the habits of overpolicing and undersupporting certain neighborhoods and citizens.

North Central did not exist before the bridge I mentioned bifurcated our city. This is a concrete example of the types of investment that supported suburban development and withered our city's tax base, and most critically, caused areas of Troy to become a negatively named zone to be avoided. National economic patterns were at work here, but local actions helped cement the development of underserved areas, and under resourced people. Education suffered, jobs did too.

The City Council and the Mayor have the opportunity to interrupt the patterns that have undermined the potential of so many Trojans. Please, take the lead to create change now and support the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives. We can't rest on our laurels and adore the history of Troy as a place on the Underground Railroad. We need to escort everyone who lives here into a chance of living a safe life, full of opportunities for education and employment. Redirect funding geared toward policing into serving our communities, and we will have a better Troy. I trust this governing body wants to be remembered for responding to this moment with justice, consideration, and protection for a better future.

Sincerely,

Amy Halloran, Tenth Street

My name is Akiva Benbow, I live at highland ave Troy, NY.

I CALL ON THE CITY COUNCIL TO:

- Reinvest the additional funding for the police into social service programs that directly service people in overpoliced neighborhoods.*
- increase budget to ensure that 100% of our youth that are eligible participate in summer and fall youth employment*
- increased budget in our parks and recreation to ensure ALL POOLS are open and safe for our families and children.*
- restoration of abandoned properties to ensure housing for our low income and houseless population.*
- funding to ensure Youth Mentorship and Apprenticeship.*
- bring back all benches and any seating arrangements back to Barker Park.
- To put new and refurbished basketball hoops and nets on each public basketball court in Troy.
- To help the people who wanted to have a memorial in Troy for citizens who have passed away.
- Convict killer cops and not memorialize them and make all of them out to be hero's.
- To actually listen to the people who have been and will continue to be citizens of Troy. Not just people that are moving in and contributing to the gentrification of Troy.
- To stop the gentrification process of downtown Troy and the north central region.
- To put street lights up on every single street and corner in Troy. Not just in well trafficked areas.

-To defund the police Department and any organizations who work with it and invest in community centers, community gardens, community programs that help Troy youth on a daily basis.

- To teach the mayor, city council and police chief and department proactive approaches instead of reactive approaches.

-Install implicit/explicit bias trainings, conflict resolution trainings, domestic violence trainings, sexual assault trainings, and any other trainings to help police do their job correctly until they are ABOLISHED.

Akiva Benbow, Highland Ave.

I support your decision to approve funds in ordinance 44 for neighborhood improvement and hope you will continue in this direction.

That being said I have serious questions about the reasoning for accepting another 197,000 dollars in ordinance 46 into the police budget.

The city administration has ignored or infantilized legitimate questions and demands for justice for Dahmeek McDonald and Edson Thevenin. For example, in June, when 11,000 people marched for Black lives in our city, City Council President Carmella Montello chose to post a photo opp to social media of police passing out pizza, without posting a photo of the massive crowd or acknowledging her constituents came together in the first place.

Further, ordinance 53 will give the police an additional 16,000 dollars for DWI screenings. While I agree that intoxicated drivers are unsafe, the council needs to first address the profiling of black and brown citizens that accompanies these, quote, "screenings."

Why is it that the city can accept hundreds of thousands more into an already grossly overbudgeted police department when our citizens don't receive the most basic tools of accountability from the police: body cams, compliance with NYS law to wear masks in public, and a police review board with subpoena power made up of black and brown citizens.

This is a historic moment and opportunity for this city to make reparations. The citizens of Troy are watching and we will not stop our just demands for police accountability.

Finally, I support and applaud the city for its resolution to support the statewide AFFF ban through Ordinance 83. This is a much needed step to protect our city.

Sincerely,

Alexis Goldsmith, 6th AVE

My name is Rhea Drysdale and I am a resident, homeowner, parent, and business owner in Troy.

I encourage you to support and approve Ordinance 44 for the allocation of funds to the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

At the same time I'm almost at a loss for words when looking at how the GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) funds are to be allocated – police salaries, overtime, consulting services, and travel?

On the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services website they state that:

“Agencies participating in GIVE must design a gun violence reduction plan that employs at least two of the following evidence-based strategies:

- hot-spots policing,
- focused deterrence,
- street outreach
- and crime prevention through environmental design.”

Does this mean the City of Troy has decided to perform hot-spot policing and focused deterrence? We don't see any mention of street outreach programs and there are certainly no improvements to environmental design.

Last week we held Light Up Troy and shared information about the University of Chicago's Crime Lab study that demonstrated a 36% reduction in nighttime outdoor index crimes simply through increased and consistent lighting.

Since then I've experienced a runaround from the city about your response to this subject. National Grid says it's your problem and ours (the community). You say it's their problem or ours (the community).

No one is accepting responsibility for the fact that kids are biking in the dark on streets littered with drugs and trash with no bike lanes and they're playing on parks in the dark with no community centers, schools out of session, and insufficient opportunities for positive programming.

Environmental design can reduce gun violence. Outreach can reduce gun violence. Instead you're reinvesting into a corrupt department that murdered Edson Thevenin and covered it up.

I'm sick over the inadequacies of this administration to show up and do what's right and now state-mandated.

Please do better.

Sincerely,
Rhea Drysdale, Massachusetts Avenue

I am a resident of Troy on *Taylor Ct. This is for the meeting on 8/6/2020 in regard to Ordinance 46.* I am writing to encourage you to **immediately freeze** additional funding for the Troy Police Department and **reallocate \$10 million from the TPD Budget to community services and projects led by and centering Black communities most impacted by violent policing.** The excessive TPD Budget should be redistributed to the Black community in the form of mental health services and community centers.

This is important because police do not keep us safe. Wearing a gun does not keep people safe. TPD has abused their power by committing murder, police brutality, and racist and discriminatory acts.

I am writing in solidarity and support with the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives. The City Council has done nothing to address these demands, nor the historic rally last month of 11,000 people. The City Council continues to be complicit in the murder and harm of Black people in Troy. **We remember the lynching of Edson Thevenin and the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald by Troy police,** as well as the subsequent coverups by Mayor Madden, district attorneys, and other Troy officials.

Defund Troy Police now! Invest in Black Communities!

Sincerely,

--

Anansa Benbow, MA, Taylor Court

My name is Kaleb Winters and I live and own my home on Sausse Avenue in Troy. I have lived in Troy for four years, but have been coming to Troy my entire life. I am also the Chair of the Upper Hudson Green Party which represents about 300 enrolled members in Troy and about 500 regular voters also in Troy.

At the regular meeting of the Upper Hudson Green Party on July 28 we voted to endorse the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives (<https://troy4blacklives.com>), who were the primary organizers for the Troy Rally for Black Lives on June 7th, 2020, a historic event that brought 11,000 people together peacefully in Troy to celebrate and affirm Black life, where my family, my friends, and I marched in solidarity.

In preparation for the rally the Troy Police Department, the Troy PBA, and their accomplices instructed businesses, tenants, landlords, and residents to board up their windows and doors and prepare for a war that never came. The police also set up a sniper station on top of the police station and barricaded public streets for no reason and wasted public resources. The only people attempting to incite violence in Troy that day were the New England Minutemen militia

group, who were identified and made to leave the rally by the safety team for the rally, not the Troy PD.

I ask you to enact the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives and to hold the Troy Police Department accountable for the lynching of Edson Thevenin and the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald. I also ask you to immediately freeze additional funding for the Troy Police Department and reallocate at least \$10 million from their budget to community services and projects led by and centering Black communities most impacted by violent policing. Thank you for your time."

Kaleb Winters, Sausse Avenue

I hope this letter finds you well, my name is Michael Drinkwine Jr. I have been a resident of Troy, NY my entire life. I attended Lansingburgh School district from K-12 and graduated in 2008. I currently reside in Brunswick but live within the Lansingburgh School district and pay my school taxes to them. The world is upside down and backwards in my opinion, defunding the Troy Police Department would be an irreversible mistake. I wholeheartedly support the members of the Troy Police Department with many of them being personal friends, they have always conducted themselves in a professional manner and work hard to keep this city safe. I have been able to personally work with the School Resource Officers assigned to Lansingburgh while working there as a substitute from time to time. The positive impact these officers have on students is obvious every day. Without getting political or too opinionated I challenge the city council and mayor to walk a beat, patrol the streets and respond to calls with the men and woman of the Troy Police department before they make any rash decisions. They already risk their lives for little pay and no respect and now they are doing it with zero support from politicians. It makes me wonder how you sleep at night even thinking of taking these brave men and woman off our streets or out of our schools. I am a product of Troy, and I am proud of it because at a very young age I was introduced to just how special it can be when a combination of thoughts, beliefs, backgrounds, and especially races come together. This city provided that without it I wouldn't be who I am today. Please reconsider defunding the Troy Police Department, and maybe consider supporting them, be the change everyone is afraid of by supporting law enforcement.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael J. Drinkwine Jr., Brunswick

As a 29 year member of the PD now retired I support the members of the Troy Police Dept. To even consider defunding them is not just ridiculous but dangerous for all the citizens of Troy. The danger of the job should be obvious to all members of the council. Please do what is right thank you. It should not be about getting re-elected but to serve the employees and citizens.

Jack Rogers, non-resident

In response to a Facebook post which I copied:

I no longer live in Troy or Rensselaer County, but I was born in Troy and raised in the county.

We need to somehow end this nonsense!

I think we all agree changes need to be made. I believe they are and have been in process. It takes time.

Please know that all law enforcement authorities have my support!

We need your police services NOW more than ever!

Hang in there! It's a tough job! They are appreciated by law abiding citizens!

Sincerely,
Eileen Bates, Voorheesville

Facebook post:****From the Troy PD PBA President:

"There is a small but very loud group demanding the Troy City council cut our budget in half and ultimately defund the Troy Police.

I ask that we have anyone that lives in Troy, or owns a business or property in Troy to send an email in support of the Troy Police to: Mara.drogan@troyny.gov before August 5th.*****

I am writing this letter in unwavering support of continuing the School Resource Officer program of the Troy Police Department. I have spent my entire 13 year career as an educator in the Lansingburgh Central School District, I have taught at both Knickerbacker Middle School and Lansingburgh High School and I am now the Assistant Principal at Turnpike Elementary School. I truly believe that now more than ever this program is necessary, especially with Officer Jeff Streeter as the SRO in the LCSD.

Officer Streeter has helped to build relationships with hard to reach students and their families. I've witnessed firsthand students requesting to talk to him about incidents that occurred outside of school in both their homes and the community. The SRO is not someone that disciplines the students, he is there to help students with issues that take place in their community and to help keep behaviors that would require discipline by the school administrator at bay. Officer Streeter has the trust of the students and the importance of that cannot be overlooked. In a community that is struggling to bridge relationships between the

citizens and the police department, an SRO is one of the most valuable assets. He goes above and beyond everyday for the students of Lansingburgh and the district would truly lose a vital asset if the program is discontinued.

I will end by saying that I fully support the Troy Police Department, especially the School Resource Officer program. I do not support the action of defunding the police and I believe that doing so would be detrimental to the entire city of Troy. As elected officials I urge you to support the members of TPD.

If there is anything I can do to help with the continuation of the SRO program please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed above.

Respectfully,
Kelly Cataldo, Ballston Spa
Assistant principal in the Lansingburgh CSD

I'm sending this letter as a show of support for the Troy, NY Police Department. The police administration and officers are some of the finest in the area and for that matter, the State of NY. It is my belief that when you support the the police department, you see immediate, positive results. The positive results tend to create an increase in home values. Higher home values lead to additional income for the City of Troy. Money aside, I beg you to please show support for your officers by giving them the resources they need to do the job and stop the negative narrative. An officer on the street or in the office needs to have their full attention to detail. When an officer loses that concentration, it could cost them their life.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Respectfully,
Robert Fitzgerald, Midlothian, VA
Retired, Troy PBA President

As a member of the troy community i feel we need reform absolutely but pulling cops out of certain neighborhoods and schools would be disastrous. I fully support TPD in their efforts to continue keeping The city of troy a safe place for all of its community members. As elected officials you should also be providing your full support to out TPD officers.

Alexandria Zareski, East Nassau, NY
Work: START CHILDRENS CENTER troy, NY i work with the community of Troy and felt submitting my show of support was as important as those who reside in the city of troy. Thank you.

My name is Jim Canfield and I have had the honor to be an educator and football coach for students of the Troy City School District for the past 35 years.

I support the Troy Police being in our schools.

Currently, I am the Principal of Public School 12 which focuses on taking students from point A to Point Z (graduation). Our entire staff does this by building positive relationships with our students and by providing our students with the necessary resources needed for school success. The most important resource that I can provide for my students is a safe learning environment so my students can learn. This is why police are needed in schools; the police help keep the building safe, which in turns allows learning to take place. I view the police officers as support staff; always willing to help and assist our students no matter how difficult the situation is.

In closing, I would like to thank the Troy Police for everything they do in keeping the Troy schools and community safe.

Respectfully,
Jim Canfield, Mechanicville

PS. I am so proud of all the young men and women who graduated from Troy High School and are now police officers serving the Troy Community. Thank you for all you do and please stay safe.

As the Republican, Conservative, and Serve America Movement Candidate for Congress for New York's 20th Congressional District, I respectfully write to join with Rensselaer County Executive Steven McLaughlin in voicing my concern and opposition to plans to "defund the police" in the City of Troy and Rensselaer County at large.

Our men and women in blue provide critical protection for families and our communities both in the City of Troy, Rensselaer County, and nationwide. With recent rising crime rates in Troy as well as cities like New York where the murder rate has risen over 50% and shootings are up over 177% in the month of July, we cannot allow the City of Troy to become another victim to increasing violent criminal activity.

Our Law Enforcement Officers risk their lives each and every day. They act as valued School Resource Officers, to conducting traffic stops, to confronting the community's most violent offenders. They are often the first to respond to medical emergencies and in the same breath provide counseling and protection to our children and communities. Our men and women in blue in Troy and in Rensselaer County need our support in these times of crisis.

I also voice my gratitude and support of Troy Police Officer Adam Harbour who while off duty, fired a shotgun and saved a young woman from almost certain death at the hands of her violent attacker with a knife. It is local stories like these that remind our communities the majority of Law Enforcement Officers, especially in Troy and the Capital Region go above and beyond to protect others.

I believe all must step back and consider the consequences of these defunding actions before rushing to decisions. Despite calls and efforts to defund our police, violent offenders will not be deterred by social workers. Criminals will not suddenly retreat into hiding as mental health resources are expanded. Those who are determined to cause harm, create chaos in our streets and inflict damage to our homes and communities will not stop. Our Law Enforcement officers are both the first and last line of defense for our children, our families, and our communities. I firmly believe that we must support our Law Enforcement with all of the funding they need, especially in times of crisis.

Liz Joy, Candidate for Congress, New York's 20th Congressional District, Glenville, NY

I support passage of ordinance 83, calling upon Governor Cuomo to sign NY State Senate bill 7880B (Breslin / McDonald) which would permanently prohibit the burning of toxic firefighting foam at the Norlite hazardous waste incinerator in Cohoes.

The City of Troy is directly impacted by emissions from this incinerator. The incinerator has a long history of violating environmental laws. Toxic firefighting foam contains PFAS - forever chemicals, which have documented negative health and environmental impacts.

The State Legislature unanimously passed this bill in a bi-partisan manner over 7 weeks ago, but the position of the Governor is unclear. Since northern areas of Troy are less than a mile from the incinerator, it is important for this resolution to be adopted, in order to protect the health of thousands of people residing in Troy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Judith Enck, Poestenkill, NY
Former EPA Regional Administrator
Visiting Professor and Senior Fellow, Bennington College

I've heard some concern about people advocating for defunding the Troy Police. I support Troy PD and it's current leadership. Troy is under-policed. It's unfortunate that we can't increase funding for the police department given the current fiscal constraint. While TPD is 1 component in keeping Troy a safe & livable community, it is a very important component. Please protect our lives, lifestyle, and investment by supporting TPD w/ funding and the freedom for its

committed professional leadership to guide the department. Thank you.

Keith Slupski, Lincoln Avenue

I and my wife Loretta are long time residents of the City of Troy, and for the past 32 years have made our home at 26 Hawthorne Avenue, Troy, NY.

As such we reside in your district, and count ourselves among your constituents. I learned this morning that the Troy City Council will take up the question of “defunding the Troy PD” this evening.

As I will be unable to attend the meeting personally to voice my opposition to this proposal, I thought I would send my thoughts on the topic to the council through you, my representative. This question of “defunding the police” is, I believe, a “knee jerk reaction” to the tragedy that was the death of Mr. Floyd.

Please do not get me wrong, I fully understand the emotion attached to this “defund” movement, however if we think critically about the matter it becomes eminently clear that taking resources away from law enforcement is the last thing that should be done!

Our Troy PD, and all law enforcement officers have one of the most difficult jobs that anyone can have. They are oftentimes in life critical and/or highly volatile situations and are required to react instantly and instinctively in these situations. An error in judgement under such circumstances can not only result in a tragic outcome, such as Mr. Floyd’s death, but can also result in an unnecessary escalation of the situation and violence. What is needed is an calm, level headed, well trained, fully equipped and staffed police force if future tragedies are to be averted.

A well trained and able police force requires regular, if not constant, training, which demands appropriate levels of funding.

In the wake of the George Floyd tragedy I understand the emotional call to cut funding to our police departments and divert those funds to other important social and community based programs. However, such an approach is not the answer. If it is determined that these social outreach and community programs require additional funding (and I am sorry but I do not know specifically what programs etc. are being targeted to receive added support.) then so be it. It is incumbent upon us as citizens of, and taxpayers in, this great city to properly fund these programs, just as it is our responsibility to ensure that our police, and fire, departments have all the resources they require to competently, completely and safely perform their sworn duty to “Serve and Protect”!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Samuel P. Ciraulo, Jr., Hawthorne Avenue

Anthony D. Magnetto
Sheldon Ave.
Troy, N.Y. 12180

July 27, 2020

Members of the Troy City Council

Troy City Hall

433 RIVER Street

Troy, N.Y.

I appreciate this opportunity to express to each of you to my position regarding efforts to “defund the police” that presently appears to be given serious consideration by some members of the city council. As a life long resident of our City and a retired member of the Troy Police Dept I find such a concept perplexing especially in a time of increased gun violence that we are currently experiencing in our city and in our neighboring communities. On the other hand I can understand the motivation by some to defund the police. A motivation that I believe is born out of almost a mob mentality, that has spread across our country. It is a view that portrays the police as the enemy of the people and defunding the police as a tool, albeit counterproductive, since it can only protect the public from that ill conceived enemy and punish the very people who take an oath to protect our citizenry by reducing funding and in some cases, as we have seen, demanding the outright abolition of a police department. Such schemes totally disregard the fact that the Troy P.D. is a fully Accredited NYS Law Enforcement Agency . The women and men of the Troy P.D. represent a great cross section of our city comprised of different races, religions, sexual orientations and socio-economic status. They are sons and daughters ,moms and dads, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors who do their best everyday to make the City of Troy a little safer place to live, work, visit, go to school and socialize by adhering to our motto of Service , Trust, Professionalism. In other words we are just people, not perfect but certainly not collectively evil.

If the “Defund The Police” rallying cry is adopted in Troy it is my fixed opinion based on 36 years of experience that major crime control initiatives will cease. It would be dangerously naïve to believe otherwise. Outstanding programs like Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS), which include quality of life enforcement, as well as the School Resource Officer (SRO) program will be removed from the initiatives that have served our city well for the past 20 years . The opportunity to positively engage our citizens, from seniors to youngsters, through these well developed, time honored programs of open communications will end and the good will and positive community support will disappear with them. And although these programs are sometimes funded via federal and state grants this money cannot be used to supplement overall department strength. So do not be fooled into thinking a reduction in overall personnel, which would have to occur under a defund the police scheme, could be offset by these outside funds.

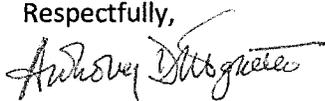
Additionally , specially trained units such as Special Operations Section (SOS), Emergency Response Team (ERT), the Mobile Command Center (MCC) and GIVE Details and Traffic Safety Units would all feel the negative impact of such a concept as defund the police. Training as well as deployments would have to be severely reduced and the efficiency and effectiveness of such assets would deteriorate to such a degree as to make them impotent to perform the basic public safety mission especially in this time of enhanced gun violence.

The negative impact of such reductions in financial resources combined with the bail reform laws, reduction in the prison population through early release, the extremely unreasonable accelerated discovery rules for criminal prosecutions as well as other “reforms” are giving an entire new meaning to the term CRIMINAL Justice System. To add defunding police departments to this menu is a recipe for disaster. And where will this disaster strike hardest??? In the very minority neighborhoods where the highest concentration of victims of gun violence reside, where their children play and go to school. Police departments devote their limited resources based on continuing crime data analysis as well as the very real time pleas for help, i.e. the 9-1-1 call, at all hours 24x7. The Troy PD has always taken pride in responding, under en extremis conditions, where people are very often victims of violent street crimes ,and the responding police officers are in the greatest danger of injury or death. The vast majority of these calls come from law abiding neighbors in high crime volume neighborhoods in the city with police deployment determined accordingly. Just recently the MCC has been deployed to these neighborhoods in a concerted effort to accomplish this mission with success and the welcomed support of the community. The MCC provides a very real police presence promoting a feeling of safety while accomplishing the dual objectives of crime prevention as well fostering positive dialogue between the MCC operators, the zone officers and the neighborhood residents.

I am quite certain that you are cognizant of the fact crime is not confined to one specific geographic area. Albany’s gun violence is Troy’s and vice a versa. We read about this in news reports weekly if not nightly. In fact, just last week, Troy PD assisted other Capital District P.D.s with an active shooter incident at CROSSGATES Mall. Subsequent on-going investigations has led to the working theory that this gun violence is believed to have a nexus between gangs from Troy and Albany. These violent criminals do not respect geographic boundaries any more than they respect the laws that they violate or the lives that their criminal conduct threatens.

As Dermot Shea, the Police Commissioner of the City of New York said recently, “The rule of law is in crisis. Concepts like Defund the Police, Abolish the Police et.al defy common sense, defy logic, and it defies sound management.” Do not be fooled by these schemes. I ask that this letter be read into the official record of the August City Council meeting.

Respectfully,



Anthony D. Margetto

Police Commissioner (Ret)

Troy Police Dept.