

**From:** [KELLEY FELCHLE](#)  
**To:** [Nancy Higby](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Removing the Griffin Symbol  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:39:14 PM

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**From:** Kendra Wyatt <Kendra.Wyatt@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** QUENTIN HART <QUENTIN.HART@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; KELLEY FELCHLE <KELLEY.FELCHLE@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>  
**Subject:** FW: Removing the Griffin Symbol

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**From:** John Beckman <[jmackb@mchsi.com](mailto:jmackb@mchsi.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** Mayor <[Mayor@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Mayor@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Sharon Juon <[Sharon.Juon@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Sharon.Juon@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Dave Boesen <[Dave.Boesen@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Dave.Boesen@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Margaret Klein <[Margaret.Klein@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Margaret.Klein@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Jonathan Grieder <[Jonathan.Grieder@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Jonathan.Grieder@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Pat Morrissey <[Pat.Morrissey@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Pat.Morrissey@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Jerome Amos Jr <[Jerome.Amos@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Jerome.Amos@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>; Ray Feuss <[Ray.Feuss@WATERLOO-IA.ORG](mailto:Ray.Feuss@WATERLOO-IA.ORG)>  
**Subject:** Removing the Griffin Symbol

Dear Honorable Mayor Hart and City Council Members,

My name is John Beckman. I live in Ward One at 3396 West Ridge Drive. I am led to believe that an agenda item concerning the removal of the Griffin symbol from the Waterloo Police Department will be presented to the City Council during your upcoming meeting on August 24, 2020.

This matter is being brought forth by a small group of persons whom have issue with the Griffin symbol, in essence, likening it to a Confederate flag or statue or, as a symbol of hate. These characterizations are the furthest thing from the truth.

If you were to Google “Origins of the Griffin symbol” you would find a frequently asked question of “Is a Griffin evil?” The reply to this question is; “A **griffin** (or **gryphon**) is a chimeric creature, part eagle and part lion. With incredible strength, unfailing protective instincts, and a zero-tolerance policy against evil, it is the superhero of mythological creatures. No villain can mess with the **griffin**! May 23, 2017

The underlined characteristics described above are the same qualities that one would expect from their law enforcement agency/officers. Seems rather fitting that the Waterloo Police Department chose this symbol.

This same group has presented a number of “policy suggestions” that should be considered by city government to address the systemic oppression of African Americans in Waterloo. This statement appeared in a Guest Column in the August 5,

2020 Courier newspaper.

I can support some of the “policy suggestions” this group has presented; but I believe it is a waste of your, and this group’s time and energy to pursue the removal of the Griffin symbol, a symbol that represents protection, not oppression.

There are so many more important issues that need to be addressed and resolved.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that the City Council resist any effort to remove the Griffin from the Waterloo Police Department. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration to my request.

Sincerely,

John Beckman

August 20, 2020