

From: [Kendra Wyatt](#)
To: [QUENTIN HART](#); [KELLEY FELCHLE](#); [Nancy Higby](#)
Subject: FW: Waterloo Police Griffin
Date: Friday, August 21, 2020 12:59:44 PM

From: Travis Hoing <hoing.travis.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Sharon Juon <Sharon.Juon@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Dave Boesen <Dave.Boesen@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Margaret Klein <Margaret.Klein@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Jonathan Grieder <Jonathan.Grieder@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Pat Morrissey <Pat.Morrissey@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Jerome Amos Jr <Jerome.Amos@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Ray Feuss <Ray.Feuss@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Mayor <Mayor@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; policechief@waterloopolice.com
Subject: Waterloo Police Griffin

Mr Mayor, City Council members of Waterloo and Chief Fitzgerald,

I would venture to guess most of you know me and all of you should know my name. I am Travis Hoing, youngest son of Officer Michael Wayne Hoing who died protecting each one of you on June 13th, 1981. Now over the years, I have gotten to know so many of Waterloo's finest, not to mention their spouses. I've become great friends with many current officers, some I've met in passing, some who have gone out of their way to introduce themselves to me, some I grew up with and even one I babysat when he was growing up. I've known many of our dispatchers most of my life. I've even become great friends with a retired Waterloo officer who was my father's best friend. The same officer who was the first on the scene that fateful night, the officer who caught my dad as he fell into his arms.

See, to me, the City of Waterloo is great. It's home. I haven't always lived here, but it's always been home, and the city has generally been supportive of my family. The Waterloo Police Department is family and I take great offense when people mess with my family, which is exactly what you are doing. I will not go over the history of the patch. Each of you should know that history. You should also know that a red griffin with green eyes looks nothing like a black dragon that the KKK, which has never been prevalent in Waterloo, uses.

It has already been pointed out that Councilman Morrissey uses a VERY similar looking symbol in his Scottish band. Now, I have no problem with his band. I love Irish and Scottish music. However, if a patch worn by police is racist, then it would mean a strikingly similar looking symbol is also racist. Yet, Councilman Morrissey brushed that off. The quote he made was "**If someone wants to say there is a similarity to it, they don't even know what they are talking about," Morrissey said. "It's a symbol that was present over in Scotland that is being used by us. ... There was nothing other than a depiction of a Scottish tartan and clan symbol. Scottish.**"

Wait a minute, so if someone compares that symbol to the griffin the Waterloo Police Department uses, which are more similar than the KKK black dragon, they don't know what they're talking about, but comparing a red griffin to a black dragon is OK? Councilman Morrissey, quite frankly, that's absurd and ignorant of you to even say. I showed all three pictures, the griffin, your band logo and the KKK black dragon to a co-worker in another state. Care to guess which ones he said looked alike, but I guess highly educated people do not know what they are talking about.

Councilman Morrissey, I ask a logical question. What is the cost of rebranding a police department YOU want to defund going to cost? Has the council considered that? Who will foot the cost of this change? I've heard rumors of it costing upwards of \$80,000 just for uniforms and that doesn't include vehicles, training facilities, letterhead or anything else I'm missing. Can the citizens of Waterloo afford this during and following a pandemic? Does the city suddenly have a plethora of excess funds sitting around for something that is likely to cost close to a quarter of a million dollars?

Now I ask what else a quarter of a million dollars could do for the police department? How about additional training. De-escalation training, mental health training, diversity training, hand to hand combat training, non-lethal force training and so much more.

While I'm not a fan of this man, Richard Nixon once said "**If a vocal minority, however fervent its cause, prevails over reason and the will of the majority, this nation has no future as a free society.**" The country is failing right now because the minority is prevailing over the majority and that's what the symbol of the Waterloo Police Department is about. You, as city leaders are failing your people by focusing on this issue rather than addressing it and explaining to your constituents that there is no correlation between a red griffin and a black dragon, nor is there any correlation between the KKK and the Waterloo Police Department. Educate your constituents.

People have died wearing this patch. People have bled wearing this patch and if you're going to give in to the cancel culture we now live in, then you may as well ban Councilman Morrissey's band for having a racist symbol. You may as well ban anything that someone says offends them regardless of what it is. That's what is going to happen. You ban a harmless patch and now you will deal with people wanting rainbow flags, LGBTQ bars, Black Lives Matter, Irishfest, Pridefest, churches and a whole host of other things banned simply because someone will say they're offensive and that would suddenly be your job to address because you set the precedent for it.

I'd love to speak at your council meeting, but I can't as I'm not a Waterloo citizen, but I do work in Waterloo. I do spend money in Waterloo and the Waterloo PD is my family. I would suggest everyone mask up and stop hiding behind computers. Come and face your constituents face to face. You'll have officers there, spouses there, dispatchers there, sheriff's deputies, retiree's and non-police involved citizens all with a voice on this. Do not let them minority dictate your actions.

I'll leave you with words not many know. They are the last words my father ever spoke as relayed by the late James Michael Taylor. "Oh God Man, don't do it, I have a family." This is my family and I'm asking you not to do it.

I hope this message reaches you and I hope you listen to the people you took an oath to serve.

Travis Hoing