

From: [KELLEY FELCHLE](#)
To: [Nancy Higby](#)
Subject: FW: Police Griffin
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 8:57:55 AM

From: Louis Fekkether <I5169f@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; KELLEY FELCHLE <KELLEY.FELCHLE@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Subject: Police Griffin

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I have read the proposed ordinance by Mr. Greider, the letter from the Waterloo Commission On Human Rights and most if not all of the comments posted with the agenda items for the Monday, August 24, 2020 council meeting.

Let me be clear that I am writing to ask that the council members vote to support the retention of the griffin. From everything I have been able to review it certainly seems that the members of our police force support this same conclusion. If there is to be a vote on the matter give our police a chance to be heard.

My research would indicate that the letter from the Waterloo Commission On Human Rights completely ignores the definition of a griffin as given by wikipedia. The letter states that "Waterloo's Griffin is eerily similar to a symbol of hatred and racial animus." The definition states that "because the lion was traditionally considered the king of the beast, and the eagle the king of birds, by the Middle Ages, the griffin was thought to be an especially powerful and majestic creature. Since classical antiquity, griffins were known for guarding treasures and priceless possessions."

I can see why the Waterloo Police Department when selecting this symbol in 1964 would select a griffin to symbolize their role in guarding and protecting the most prized possession of the City of Waterloo, it's citizens.

If in fact millions of dollars in the last decade have been paid out to African American residents due to the wayward and impetuous actions of some of Waterloo's officers and/or leadership then clearly action needs to be taken against those responsible if this has not already been done. But to blame those actions on the unsavory history tied to this symbol seems a stretch. If these problems persist, deal with the problems, but don't let replacement of the griffin be a substitute for a solution because it won't accomplish that goal.

Please listen to your constituents as you consider this matter.

Louis Fekkether
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