

From: [KELLEY FELCHLE](#)
To: [Nancy Higby](#)
Subject: FW: Use of the Police Griffin
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 9:58:14 AM

From: Kendra Wyatt <Kendra.Wyatt@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 9:03 AM
To: QUENTIN HART <QUENTIN.HART@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; KELLEY FELCHLE <KELLEY.FELCHLE@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Subject: FW: Use of the Police Griffin

From: Clark, Andrew <clarka@waterloopolice.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; 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@waterloo=ia.org' <pat.morrissey@waterloo=ia.org>; Jerome Amos Jr <Jerome.Amos@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Ray Feuss <Ray.Feuss@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Subject: Use of the Police Griffin

Dear Mayor Hart and members of the Waterloo City Council:

My name is Andrew Clark, and I am a Sergeant with the Waterloo Police Department. Some of you know me personally and others may remember me from a recent Council meeting where Major Leibold and myself received our awards for 30 years of service with the City of Waterloo. Currently I am the most senior employee of the Waterloo Police Department having begun my service April 6, 1990. As you have probably assumed by now, I am writing this in regard to the current controversy surrounding the possible removal of the Griffin.

During my employment with the Department, I have spent the majority of my time in assignments where I wore a uniform. These uniformed assignments are generally those with the most contact with members of the public. I have answered countless questions from citizens about what the Griffin was, what it means and why we wear it. I always did so proudly because it was unique and an appropriate metaphor for what police officers represent; Vigilance, Strength and Protection. Most often when this was explained to citizens they responded positively and showed me that they approved of such an emblem.

I had about 12 years with the Department before I ever heard the accusation that the Griffin was some sort of KKK symbol. I heard this from a member of our community that was famous for her disdain for the police. I knew the true "story behind the patch" and knew that these rumors were nothing but inflammatory speech, intending to misinform those that knew no better. Periodically this false narrative rears its ugly head and the Waterloo Police are once again vilified until it subsides. Chief Fitzgerald informed his Officers that he had researched the Griffin with the

Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center and found no connection between the Griffin and any hate group.

During my time in Waterloo, I have seen some of the best and the worst that this city has to offer. One of the best things this city has is the men and women of the Waterloo Police Department. Their dedication to this city and its citizens is nothing short of incredible. Despite controversy, budget shortfalls, adverse weather, manpower shortages, long hours, overnight and weekend shifts, every one of those Officers lives up to their oaths. Through shared experiences and sometimes hardships, our Officers have developed a sense of pride in the Griffin. You might equate this to how a military veteran takes pride in a patch or insignia from a unit they served with because of the experiences and bonds developed during that service.

I will close this message with a plea to each one of you to please allow the Griffin to remain the symbol of the Waterloo Police Department. For 56 years and 3 generations of Waterloo Police Officers, it has served alongside all of us as a symbol of pride. Please allow it to remain so. Thank you.