

From: [KELLEY FELCHLE](#)
To: [Nancy Higby](#)
Subject: FW: Waterloo Police Department Griffin
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 10:19:49 AM

From: Kendra Wyatt <Kendra.Wyatt@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 9:12 AM
To: QUENTIN HART <QUENTIN.HART@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; KELLEY FELCHLE <KELLEY.FELCHLE@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Subject: FW: Waterloo Police Department Griffin

From: Molly Wertz <molmol77@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:53 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>; Jonathan Grieder <Jonathan.Grieder@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Jerome Amos Jr <Jerome.Amos@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Ray Feuss <Ray.Feuss@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; Mayor <Mayor@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Subject: Waterloo Police Department Griffin

Dear Mayor Hart and the Waterloo City Council,

As a concerned citizen of Waterloo and a proud wife of a Waterloo Police Officer, I am appalled and disgusted at the rumors and assumptions that the Griffin on their patch is a racist symbol.

My husband, Matt Wertz, is a man of integrity and has proudly worn the patch for 17 years. He has built relationships in the community with people from all races, religion, and socioeconomic status. He has had individuals he has arrested thank him later, as the experience changed their life for the better. He has been the first on scene to many bloody, violent situations and administered first aid and given CPR to victims of violent crimes. He has been the listening ear for those in distress and has been a comfort for children in crisis. All of this while wearing a patch that is said to be a symbol of hate?

There is no evidence to support this awful assumption, only feelings fueling this potential change. If our men and women in blue only made decisions based on feelings, without clear minds, facts, and proper investigations, they would be in danger of hurting themselves or someone else, or losing their jobs.

Each day when our Waterloo Police Officers put on their uniform, the patch is a source of pride, and a reminder of their duty to protect and serve ALL community members with vigilance and respect. They are humans who are called to make a difference in their communities one interaction at a time. It is not only a job, but a lifestyle and a family.

One concern the council has expressed is that community members do not trust the police because of their patch. So, by changing it, what will it do? Will citizens automatically trust and respect the police, and the laws they have sworn to uphold? Will changing the patch automatically make citizens cooperate with violent crime investigations? Will changing the patch decrease crime in our city?

The facts are these. One, the patch is not a symbol of the KKK, as the Anti-Defamation League confirmed, and two, there will always be individuals who do not approve of, and who disrespect law enforcement, no matter what is on their uniform.

In addition, where will the money come from to pay for changes? Wouldn't money be more appropriately spent on community building, additional training for our police department, staffing empty fire stations, or improving roads?

Waterloo is a great city, in part because of the humble work our police officers do every single day. Please show support for those who put their lives at risk everyday for you and the rest of our community.

Keep the patch.

Respectfully,

Molly Wertz

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