

From: [KELLEY FELCHLE](#)
To: [Nancy Higby](#)
Subject: FW: GRIFFIN
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 10:21:27 AM

Kelley Felchle
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From: Kendra Wyatt <Kendra.Wyatt@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 9:16 AM
To: QUENTIN HART <QUENTIN.HART@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>; KELLEY FELCHLE <KELLEY.FELCHLE@WATERLOO-IA.ORG>
Subject: FW: GRIFFIN

From: Rich Boesen <knife@cfu.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 3:42 PM
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>; Jonathon Grieder <Jonathon.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>
Subject: GRIFFIN

From Richard C. "Rich" Boesen, retired Waterloo Police Department Lieutenant, having served from August, 1972, to March, 2003.

Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

Once again the Griffin emblem has come under fire from a small but very vocal minority who believe it has ties to the Ku Klux Klan. In December, 2019, a Cedar Falls resident wrote a letter to the editor entitled, "Bad Symbol", in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier, stating in part, "a dragon symbol on police cars that is reminiscent of the KKK". Myself and two others replied immediately to her accusation, stating the differences between the Griffin and a dragon, the history of the WPD patch, what the Griffin stands for, and how proud the officers of the WPD were and are to wear and display it. The lone complainant continued with her written diatribe but, since no one joined her in her quest I was hoping the matter was settled.

Recent criticism of the Griffin symbol by Kathryn Mahoney, linking it once again to the KKK and calling for its removal, plus having at least two council members agreeing with her request to remove it, prompted me to write this email.

During the thirty plus years I was employed by the Waterloo Police Department I never once heard a Waterloo citizen or fellow officer attempt to link the Griffin to the KKK. I was and still am proud of the Griffin patch and what it stands for. The duty weapon presented to me upon retiring has a Griffin stamped on the side of the barrel. Just a short trip around our home reveals well over fifty items showing the Griffin on watches, tee shirts, belt buckles, knives, mugs, drink glasses, key chains, hats, jackets, paintings, a stained glass display, and many other items. When the opportunity arose I purchased three patches with my employee number on them, framed them, kept one for my wife and I and gave the others to my daughter and son, who proudly display them in their homes. To say the least I'm a huge fan of the Griffin having proudly worn it on BOTH shoulders the majority of my time on the PD, because I know what it stands for, and due to the fact it is one of the most unique and desired patches in the world of law enforcement.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to address a quote in the August 20th edition of the Courier by Mr. Morrissey in which he stated, "That is amazing some people would try to draw a parallel between a pipe band and a law enforcement agency putting on a Ku Klux Klan logo". I find it equally amazing that someone who looks at a black dragon, facing right and breathing red fire on a pendant of the KKK from the 1860s would consider a red Griffin, facing left, with a plain beak (no fire), and state flat out, "a law enforcement agency putting on a Ku Klux Klan logo". As far as the comparison goes between the pipe band logo and the other two logos, I'd say the red lion favors the red Griffin more than the black dragon, since the lion is half of a griffin, both are red, and both face the same direction. That should make all three racist symbols in Mr. Morrissey's mind, but I'm sure it won't. Apparently, in this day and age, racism is in the eye and mind of the beholder. The Griffin is not a Ku Klux Klan logo and I take offense to his statement. I doubt SAAB Auto would use the head of a red Griffin as their logo since 1984, if they felt it had any connection to the KKK or racism.

I've heard rumors you're also considering banning facial recognition, doing away with all

military surplus items, and restricting the use of non-lethal force on “protesters”. Before you make and decisions regarding these subjects I’d like to throw in my two cent’s worth. While I realize there are some problems with Facial Recognition Technology, especially with people of color, I feel it shouldn’t be totally banned as it is still useful in very limited situations. Surplus Military Equipment should not be disposed of or banned from future acceptance if offered to the department. While some of the items are not applicable to law enforcement, many are. Vehicles have been used to save lives during blizzards and other natural disasters as well as rescuing citizens from barricaded situations while protecting the rescuers, and many other military surplus items have been applied to police work. Why waste tax payers’ money when items can be used to aid and both citizens and officers. Restricting the use of non-lethal force is something each and everyone of you need to research in depth and hopefully will not result in tying the hands of officers to the point where a situation could escalate and cause serious injuries or possibly to citizens or officers.

In closing, my only requests are that you leave the Griffin symbol alone, and please due your homework and discuss in depth each of the other items on the agenda before making any decisions.

Thank You in advance for taking the time to read and consider the above information and requests.

Rich Boesen