

From: [REDACTED]
[City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Comment on the Aleyah Lewis case
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:42:12 PM

I'm following up with my previous email to note the following:

After listening further to the meeting, I'm even more horrified with case of Aleyah Lewis. I again call for the dropping of the charges against Aleyah Lewis. I also second the comments made by Council Member Jared in that we see that reforms have FAILED. I do not think pouring more money into a police force that is rooted in a racist history is the most appropriate move forward. I entreat the council to address this situation, and have deep, extensive conversations about how we as a community can move forward in a way that relies less on policing, and more on community support.

On the note of Zoombombing, there are multiple avenues to prevent these issues, and I'm disappointed the Council and technology people in relation to the Council, did not come prepared for this when they knew this would be a widely shared public meeting, discussing such a difficult subject in such a difficult time. There is no excuse. Consider password protections, livestreaming the direct meeting and monitoring the chat on the livestream for allowing public comments.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Aida Guhlincozzi

On Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 7:39 PM Aida Guhlin <arguhlin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I am a citizen in Champaign-Urbana, and I saw the reporting and video of what occurred between the police and Aleyah Lewis. My request, in alignment with that of others, is:

- All charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped
- A detailed follow-up and analysis of the results of the independent investigation that has been commissioned, and I am supportive of this investigation and appreciative of it moving forward.
- For the officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation
- For reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Aida Guhlincozzi

From: [Aida Guhlin](#)
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Comment on the Aleyah Lewis case
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:39:14 PM

Hello,

I am a citizen in Champaign-Urbana, and I saw the reporting and video of what occurred between the police and Aleyah Lewis. My request, in alignment with that of others, is:

- All charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped
- A detailed follow-up and analysis of the results of the independent investigation that has been commissioned, and I am supportive of this investigation and appreciative of it moving forward.
- For the officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation
- For reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Aida Guhlincozzi

City Council Meeting
Monday, June 01, 2020 5:39:32 PM

I am a resident of Urbana-Champaign emailing in advance of the city council meeting tonight. I am emailing to advocate that, in the light of inappropriate police violence, the charges against Aleyah Lewis be dropped. Additionally, I want to advocate for an meaningful independent investigation of the actions of police officers Michael Cervantes and Eric Ruff, as well as for the leave of these officers pending this investigation, and a reform which would enable make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight.

Thank you.
Aidan Watson-Morris

[!City Council](#)
Statement for city council meeting
Monday, June 01, 2020 6:12:49 PM

I am writing to have my statement included in tonight's meeting. Now, more than ever, the City of Urbana needs to take a hard look at its police-community relations. The altercation between Urbana police and one of our neighbors on Good Friday demonstrates that Urbana police do not have the best interests of all of its citizens in mind and are in need of a citizen's police review board that has the ability to be effective in its job. The citizens of our communities are hurt and angry right now because of a combination of national events and the continued disregard our police force has for our communities of color. Why didn't the police use verbal deescalation strategies before the terrible force they used on that woman? Further, why are the elected officials of so-called liberal Urbana okay with this?

Things need to change. We need a citizen's police review board that can actually do its job. The change in CPRB chair is a great first step. But, reporting requirements need to be changed.

I hope the City Council recognizes the opportunity for positive change here and takes immediate action.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: End Police Violence Now
Date: Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:56:34 PM

Esteemed Councilpersons,

For 2 months I heard nothing about this violent altercation. That appalls me almost as much as the incident itself. According to many, the incident is only a graphically well documented glimpse into an all too familiar pattern. My own research can not disprove this. That is incredibly disappointing and disheartening to me in this day and age, in a university town especially. From my own research, I also believe the initial reactions from the City pointed mostly to well worn justifications related to gun violence and the need for behavior change among young people. Behavior changes and reasonable gun legislation is a start, and also it's past time to stop treating people of color by a different set of rules once and for all. In perpetually doing this, Whites create the very problems of violence that we are facing. We are literally stirring the pot ourselves into a boiling rage. Why do that? What is the reasonable response to facing such unjust disparities and discrimination for generations? It MUST end. My greatest fear as a white person who will soon be in the minority is that I'll be judged by the color of my skin because of the racial injustices that other whites chose not to do better sooner. I add my voice to the growing call for deeper analysis and structural change. I expect the coming months to be a transformative time for justice in Champaign County and I'm paying closer attention now to what our public servants are doing. It's 2020 and this sort of behavior as well as racism is unacceptable. Period. As public servants, I beseech you to seek justice and serve your public well. All of them, please. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Lou Hatch
Champaign County Resident

[!City Council](#)
public comment Urbana City Council
Monday, June 01, 2020 7:00:14 PM

I ask for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped and the officers involved in using excessive force against her to be put on leave pending an investigation. No one should be treated this way by the police and I ask for a meaningful and independent investigation of this matter. I also urge you to reform the Citizen Police Review Board to make it have meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

Thank you,
Amy Whelpley

From: [REDACTED]
[!City Council](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:30:47 PM

This was recieved via Citizens' Voice on the City's website.

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.

----- Original message -----

From: Andrea via City of Urbana <webmaster@city.urbana.il.us>
Date: 6/1/20 1:04 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: ! Citizens' Voice <CitizensVoice@urbanaininois.us>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Monday, June 1, 2020 - 13:03
Submitted by: 2600:1700:c2e0:6bb0:30bb:c3b6:f285:2649

Submitted values are:

Name: Andrea
Email: [REDACTED]
Ward:
Choose an Issue: Police
Comment: DROP ALL CHARGES ON ALEYAH LEWIS IMMEDIATELY

[!City Council](#)
Public Comment on Aleyah Lewis Case
Monday, June 01, 2020 7:00:41 PM

Urbana City Council,

I am writing to you to demand justice for Aleyah Lewis. I am calling for all charges against her to be dropped, for a truly meaningful and independent investigation, for the officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation, and to reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight board and comply with its ordinance.

Best,

Andrea Herrera

From: [!City Council](#)
Justice for Aleyah Lewis

To: Sunday, May 31, 2020 11:19:47 PM

Subject: [REDACTED]

Date: To the City Counsel of Urbana, Illinois,

I am emailing as an Urbana citizen to demand change right now in local police policy and the citizen police review board. I initially watched the video of Aleyah Lewis being attacked by police - as I have in the past when a video is shared showing yet another cop harassing attacking, brutalizing and killing a black person. I don't know if watching it is the right thing to do. It feels exploitive. And I also feel it's my responsibility- if the person had to endure the abuse, as a white person I should not just witness it, but use my anger not to just pontificate on social media but to act. For me it starts with the way I parent my kids.

The other day I witnessed my ignorance and privilege in the most profound way. As I walked with my 7 year old in our neighborhood a cop driving by waved at us smiling in a friendly reassuring way. I realized just then if I were black that cop may have treated us different. I don't know what's it like to feel fear when I see the police. After the cop passed my daughter said "The police are nice." And my heart sank because I realized I have not done enough to teach her. She knows the black people are not treated fairly and that her friends deserve better.

But she has blind spots my job it to show her and teach her to open her heart so she sees injustice and shows up for her friends. She might be 7 but this is when I must start to teach my kids about being a true ally and standing up for what's right.

My daughter doesn't fear the police. But I know kids her age with black skin have already learned to. I have to do better. So I told her - not all cops are nice and some of them treat black people and other people of color badly - sometimes even hurting them badly. I said some cops are often nicer to white people. And black people are often punished more because they are black. I know there's more and better ways to teach her. And more ways to explain this all to her. I had to start somewhere. I will keep trying.

This is not to show proof of my action but to show how good intentions aren't enough and I have to do more so my kids understand their privilege and don't cause harm to black people. It's a lot to put on a 7 year old but black kids bare that weight everyday. We have to learn to take that weight on to support and defend them. We can and must do better otherwise we are complicit in being the problem.

I don't know if the way I handled it was right. I truly don't. I want to believe it can change and that black kids can walk down the street one day and not be afraid of the cops. I want people like Aleyah Lewis to trust when she turns to the cops for help that she doesn't risk her safety to do so. So I watched the video and was saddened and angered and sick. But as a white person it's not enough. I must demand better for my fellow humans beings of color. So I demand the following:

All charges against Aleyah Lewis be dropped

A truly meaningful and independent investigation

For officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation

- o For reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and
- o
- o comply with its ordinance.
- o

Thank you for your time,

Angela Waarala

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Taking Action to End Police Violence
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:52:04 PM

I am a white member of our community. As such, my experience has led me to see police officers as public servants meant to protect citizens. I have rarely been pulled over for a traffic violation and when I have, I have been treated with respect and kindness and more often than not was released quickly with no more than a warning.

After living in this community for the past thirty years and listening to stories from non-white friends, about their experiences with law enforcement and paying attention to news stories over that same period of time, across the country and here in CU, I realize that everyone's experience is not one of comfort and justice.

I count myself among those citizens who demand the following:

- That all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped
- That there be a truly meaningful and independent investigation
- That the officers who harmed Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation
- That there be reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight process and to comply with its ordinance.

This is a wonderful community for so many people, those who grew up here and those like me who have chosen CU to live and raise a family. All citizens of this community deserve fair treatment by law enforcement as well as processes for review when there has been a question of unfair treatment.

Thank you for working to serve all members of our community.

Ann Quackenbush

From: [REDACTED]
To:
Subject:
Date:

Dear City Council,

I am writing you to ask the following:

- Immediately drop the charges against Aleyah Lewis
- Put the officers who perpetrated unnecessary violence in our community on leave until a thorough and independent investigation can be completed
- Stop the Urbana Police Department from blatantly violating city code in regards to the Citizen Police Review Board and institute more oversight to ensure that community members have a meaningful say in how their community is policed.
- Start holding UPD chief Bryant Seraphin accountable to complaint response timelines, as dictated by city code
- Adopt the NAACP and Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police "10 Shared Principles"

In keeping our community safe, our police officers should be held to city rules, codes, and regulations at a minimum - and preferably should be held to an even higher standard. The unnecessary violence and pattern of blatant disregard for regulations by UPD lead to distrust and fear. If I, as a white woman, feel this uncomfortable and unsafe with UPD, I can only imagine how unsafe our black community members must feel. I urge you to make these changes immediately so we can build a safer and more trusting community.

Anna Asplund

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: For public comment at the Urbana City Council Meeting 6/1/20
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:03:37 PM

I am calling for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped immediately so that she may begin the healing process after being brutalized by the Urbana Police.

Additionally, I believe that a Truly independent investigation of this incident of police brutality should begin as soon as possible. Until the completion of that investigation, all officers involved in the assault of Aleyah should be placed on administrative leave so that they are not free to pressure and influence the outcome of the investigation, such as by trying to get the citizen who posted the video footage to take it down. As part of the investigation and moving forward ALL body cam footage needs to be released.

Finally, the CPRB needs to be fixed and allowed to function as it was intended. There needs to be review and commitment to make sure the CPRB truly has the ability to review citizen complaints in order to help restore some trust in this process and in oversight of policing within this community.

Thank you,
April Ayers

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Re:
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:22:54 PM

Our ultimate goal should be a complete reinvention of our local structure so that policing is not central, so that we can invest in our community and not in violence. I am not convinced that police reform is enough.

On Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 6:01 PM Audrey Dombro <[REDACTED]> wrote:

The City of Urbana needs to immediately take steps to clean up our local police department. Urbana officers did not treat Aleyah Lewis as a human being. It is inconceivable that Ms. Lewis faces charges while those officers that beat her have walked away. The charges must be dropped and we need to put the officers on leave while a real independent investigation is conducted.

Aleyah is not alone. I have no doubt that the police have brutalized others in our community. The city council has an opportunity to learn from this moment, to make meaningful and lasting change, beginning with giving power to the CPRB. Policing in our community must be transformed, and meeting these demands is the first step.

--

Audrey Dombro

[REDACTED]

Policy, International Trade and Development

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Audrey Dombro

[REDACTED]

Policy, International Trade and Development

From:

 -
[!City Council](#)

Date:

Monday, June 01, 2020 6:01:26 PM

Hello,

I implore the city council to fight for the charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped.

To call for an independent investigation against the Urbana police department for their disgusting misconduct against unarmed black residents and have the officer who beat Ms. Lewis be put on leave while the investigation is pending.

These acts of violence against the black community cannot be tolerated. It is up to us to require better and fight back against these injustices with radical change.

--

Dombro

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Policy, International Trade and Development

[!City Council](#)

Community Comments for Meeting tonight

Monday, June 01, 2020 6:50:55 PM

The City of Urbana needs to immediately take steps to clean up our local police department. Urbana officers did not treat Aleyah Lewis as a human being. It is inconceivable that Ms. Lewis faces charges while those officers that beat her have walked away. The charges must be dropped and we need to put the officers on leave while a real independent investigation is conducted.

Aleyah is not alone. I have no doubt that the police have brutalized others in our community. The city council has an opportunity to learn from this moment, to make meaningful and lasting change, beginning with giving power to the CPRB. Policing in our community must be transformed, and meeting these demands is the first step.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [!City Council](#)
Date: Public Comment
Monday, June 01, 2020 5:38:06 PM

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor,

I'm just curious how you're doing on getting the cop that jacked Aleyah Lewis *at least* taken off the streets and put on desk duty.

Sure seems dodgy to keep him on patrol during a time when police are more likely to encounter and harm Black protesters.

If he was so quick to perpetuate violence against a small woman of color in an entirely unthreatening situation, I shudder to think what he would do under even more stressful conditions.

Once more for the councilmembers too far to the Right—and therefore in the wrong-- Black Lives Matter.

Regards,

Benjamin Stone

[!City Council](#)
Police Violence
Monday, June 01, 2020 7:55:47 PM

Hello City Council,

I am concerned about what Champaign-Urbana is doing in response to the murder of George Floyd and the beating of Aleyah Lewis. I do not believe that simply integrating bias training is a sufficient response. While increased training sounds good in theory, it does not seem to be working in our country and I am concerned about additional funds going into the police department rather than the Urbana community. I want to know what specific actions you will be taking and how you will work to limit the police's violence against the black community?

I would additionally like to advocate for all charges to be dropped against Aleyah Lewis, and for the officers to be put on leave pending investigation. That kind of behavior can not be tolerated in our community.

Thank you for your time,
Berit

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Comment for the record of today"s council meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 9:45:45 PM

Please add this to your record: I made this comment around 9:30 PM.

I'll keep this brief. I had initially hoped to call in to discuss the topic of today's protest - that is the systematic police violence that seems endemic in our town among so many others. It's clear now that those topics have been amply addressed by the comments Jared has read out to us and that the city council has no plans to engage in a conversation about this today - instead pushing it off to a later meeting. Instead, I'd like to address another issue that this meeting has made glaringly obvious - and that is each of you, the city council and what you have made us sit through this evening.

This meeting was billed as a public input session, and at the planned start time we quickly maxed out on participants. Instead of actually engaging with public input, you managed to spend an entire hour discussing your own perspectives and experiences, while allowing Urbana PD chief – perhaps the most important stakeholder here - important to leave the meeting after a 5 minute prepared statement. What kind of message does that send? Only that Urbana PD has no interest in hearing our concerns, and that you all have little interest or ability to ensure they do. To the mayor – if Wednesdays session is too busy to adequately address this topic. You need to make time. Call a new meeting. You just don't seem to get it. When marchers yell no justice no peace, they mean it. We mean it.

By the time I will read this, the majority of those who were on the streets today, so eager to participate to make our local government more effective will have left. Probably because they have better things to do on a workday than listen indefinitely to what largely should be reserved for your personal Facebook pages and reelection campaigns. I urge you all to think about what it means that you have taken this opportunity for community input and made it largely about yourselves and bereft of any opportunity for conversations with community members. Oh and specifically to Bill Brown – earlier this meeting you mentioned that you have recently become aware that Champaign has a more effective review board – something a 5 minute google search away, after weeks of public complaints, maybe you should find another way to contribute to this community.

Sincerely,
Bijal Patel

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tonight's Council Meeting Comment
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:58:47 PM

Points for discussion tonight:

1. Does the Mayor and UPD Chief agree that citizen oversight of police use of force is valuable? If so – why has the CPRB been allowed to become so dysfunctional and what are the plans to address this? Will they immediately move to adopt a system as comprehensive or better as the Champaign PD's citizen review board? Will they remove needless administrative barriers such as the need for notarization of complaints?
2. Do the Mayor and UPD Chief believe that city ordinances apply to them? Why have they repeatedly violated their own rules (as discussed in <http://publici.ucimc.org/2020/05/urbana-civilian-police-review-board-under-the-spotlight-after-violent-arrest/?fbclid=IwAR3r4PGV9LNFK7KkAYBgNHsUsUAVIK2cJFh6D3kPIFd7VeON3VnYeRL3KSA>) w.r.t to the CPRB. What is their plan to restore public trust in the accountability of the police. Specifically what is the penalty and corrective action for continued violations of the cities own ordinances by UPD?
3. The mayor and UPD chief have previously stated that they believe the level of force used to arrest Aleyah Lewis was justified. Do they still feel this way? How do they reconcile this position with the clear outrage of the community, and how will they work to bring their opinions into line with the community they purport to serve?

Best,
Bijal Patel

[!City Council](#)
Aleyah Lewis
Monday, June 01, 2020 6:46:09 PM

Hello,

I have been a resident of Urbana for 7 years. I find the excessive violence towards Ms. Aleyah Lewis by the Urbana police unacceptable. Further, I find specifically Diane Marlin's behavior completely ridiculous. Last council meeting there was significant public demand to address Ms. Aleyah Lewis' case, and instead of addressing these concerns Diane Marlin deflected all discussion to a new high school graduate (shout out to the young man, congrats!). Please do not disregard your community's concern again. We expect a response about Ms. Aleyah Lewis and police violence in our community at large.

I hope further that discussion of police violence is not overloaded entirely to the case of Mr. George Floyd. The violence towards Mr. Floyd and his community is immense and should be respected and spoken about, but using his suffering to shield Urbana from our responsibility to Ms. Aleyah Lewis is unacceptable. Speak of Ms. Lewis' case.

Boblo

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Police Funding
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 12:38:59 PM

It is apparent that we are at an overdue turning point in American history. It is time to rethink and reshape how we police our community.

Given the untold amount of unnecessary violence at the hands of UPD, it is apparent that they are an improper investment for keeping our community safe. They sow dissent and distrust in the public they harm, and we as a nation are thinking beyond having strangers with guns patrolling neighborhoods and punching women.

This isn't an issue with training, or staffing, or funding. It is an issue with compliance through fear of harm. Making people subservient through terror. It is an immoral way to operate in society.

Funding to police should be minimal and police presence in communities should be minimal. We should focus on programs that nurture and care. That address root causes of community violence, not add to them.

Urbana is an incredible and progressive leader in managing community, exemplified by the sanctuary city status. We should continue this by restricting funds to police and allowing alternatives to flourish. Social work and crisis management along with after school programs and community engagement should be the goals. Not gas masks, armored cars, or rubber bullets.

Care for your community, do not harm it.

Sincerely,
Brian Dunn

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Community Policing
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 3:58:34 PM

Please read my comments below at the June 1 city council meeting.

Mayor and City Council Members:

When my wife and I retired to Urbana six years ago, I was pleasantly surprised to find a very friendly place whose members were willing to help one another and the community. I find that is still the case, but the brutal take-down of Aleyah Lewis opened a rift in my rose-colored assessment of Urbana. Of course I knew of the robberies in my immediate neighborhood and the shootings nearby, but I felt the presence of a committed "blue shield" and a committed city government which would address the deficiencies. I was wrong, It turns out that all of my dreams and expectations were as phony as the "Civilian Police Review Board".

The "blue shield", instead of being committed to community oriented policing, bringing all segments together in an organized way to help us build a stronger cohesive community, has chosen to rely on head punching and knees to the backs of our citizens. And who supports this type of policing, the city council members who said it's OK. It's OK to support the police who provoke unarmed women, it's OK to cover up what actually happened by not releasing all the videos and body camera footage in Lewis' case, that it is OK to try to suppress the videos that were published. Shame on you all.

When I was a consultant in urban economics, cities hired us to write expert reviews which reflected the will of those hiring us.

When you hire someone to do an "independent investigation" I hope it is not just to reflect your acceptance of the status quo.

You have a heavy responsibility to get it right. I do know you care about the community, but that means all of us as individuals not just the powers that be.

Thank You
Brian Vura-Weis
Urbana

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: City of Urbana Must End Police Violence
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 5:17:40 PM

I would like the statement below to be read aloud at tonight's Urbana City Council meeting.

The City of Urbana has an opportunity to set itself above city and state officials who have remained passive in their response to their own local law enforcement brutally assaulting and murdering the Black citizens they have sworn to protect.

I, as a proud member of the Urbana community, stand with my Black brothers and sisters and demand our city respond swiftly and with justice to not only the global outcry against police brutality, but also within our own community as Aleyah Lewis remains a victim of such atrocities. We demand that the Urbana City Council

- Call for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped
- Call for a truly meaningful and independent investigation
- Call for officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation
- Call for reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

We are the citizens that elected you to represent our voices. Do not falter in this moment. Do not become one more group of politicians who have failed the very community they seek to uphold. Use your positions of power and privilege to actively fight against the normalization of police brutality.

In Solidarity,

Cassidy Wagner
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Discuss the Notary Requirement Please
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 8:03:34 PM

Vacellia Clark is wrong. I have personally been turned away from the police services window when no notary was present. It was a problem before COVID.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 8:01 PM Christopher Hansen [REDACTED] > wrote:
Our own Human Rights Complain form does not require a notary. The HRC has far more power to compel outcomes than the CPRB.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 7:53 PM Christopher Hansen [REDACTED] wrote:
"sworn statement" is what is required by the ordinance.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 7:52 PM Christopher Hansen <[REDACTED]>
wrote:
Please google the legal definition of "sworn statement" and Jim about your findings.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 7:37 PM Christopher Hansen [REDACTED] >
wrote:
No such requirement is written in the ordinance, but UPD is enforcing this invented requirement.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council; Smyth, Charles; clerk@urbanaininois.us](mailto:clerk@urbanaininois.us)
Subject: What we need from an indep. investigation and CPRB
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 9:59:35 PM
Attachments: [Chynoweth City Council input June 1, 2020.pdf](#)

Dear City Council,

Attached is my entire input for tonight - I edited it for time. Please note it includes recommendations about the investigation.

Also please see this excellent overview of some of the current problems with the CPRB that need to be addressed: <http://publici.ucimc.org/2020/05/urbana-civilian-police-review-board-under-the-spotlight-after-violent-arrest/>

Lastly, you need to get the charges dropped against Aleyah Lewis. There is a long history in this community of bringing charges against victims of police brutality so that they are not able to have timely hearings of complaints and the city is shielded from liability. The actions of officers were wrong. It is time to take responsibility and move on to policy and CPRB reform.

best,
Danielle

Danielle Chynoweth's input to Urbana City Council June 1, 2020

The story of George Floyd has already happened here in Champaign Urbana. Greg Brown was suffocated by Champaign Police behind a dumpster on White Street in Champaign, begging for his life in 2000. This is one of the reasons we founded the Independent Media Center. In 2009 15-year-old unarmed Kiwane Carrington was killed by Chief Finney who went on to 100K per year advising police departments. Kiwane and his family still have no justice to this day.

I am grateful and we are lucky that Aleyah Lewis is alive, but she is deeply traumatized by her torture by Urbana Police and then by having to watch city leaders justify this torture -- telling her she sustained no injuries when your officers denied her medical care so there would be no documentation of her injuries, and telling her she has to learn how to interact with police.

Please review the documentation. Take note: while the police had her on the ground she says: "if you have a female officer, she can come search me" – in doing so, she tells you what you need to do to secure the scene and her compliance – instead a male officer grabs her without warning – she reacts in a way predictable for an escalated person, and the police beat her. Once she is in custody, the police do not allow her time to cool down, instead they force her into a car and end up putting a hood on her head and shackles on her legs -- for those watching, it is clear this was preventable.

Listen to the audio: Everything the Aleyah says shows she felt racially profiled, disrespected, and treated like less than human. Everything she said fights for her dignity. No one has justified why Officer Ruff kneed her in the rib. Listen to the audio again: he does strikes her right after she calls him a racist. You can not ignore the racial dimension of this incident.

I helped to create the Civilian Review Board of Police in 2007 – it was greatly watered down by the council. Looking at the shambles the CPRB is in now, I wonder if I should have voted it down back in 2007.

The CPRB is a tool that can work in your favor and show you data and patterns to address problems before they spin out of control. If you want to avoid a death by police you must have real oversight. The fact that the CPRB has repeatedly violated the CPRB ordinance and is highly managed by the police shows we need hands-on management by elected leaders.

An independent investigation of the arrest of Aleyah Lewis needs the following:

- You must put Officer Ruff and Cervantes on administrative leave for this investigation to be credible.
- The investigation must be done by an organization credible to the community – not a police department.

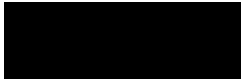
- You and the investigator must look at patterns of behavior and complaints of specific officers – Ruff and Cervantes – in particular the behavior by Office Cervantes in the Quinten Brown case.
- The investigator must review the many hours now of public input which has been well researched.
- The investigator must review the April 27th Council meeting and what appears to be violations of due process, 5th Amendment rights, and rights of privacy.
- Racial prejudice must be part of the review.
- The resulting report must be released to the public.
- The investigation must look at police policy and use of force – Chief Seraphim has said unequivocally that the behavior of Cervantes and Ruff was “justified” – this calls into question the police policies – including a use of force policy - as a whole.

I will end by saying: Some of the worst trauma comes from how people respond to violence, after the violence happens. I want the city leadership to see your role in perpetuating that trauma. Since April 10th this victim of police brutality has seen the following:

- She saw Chief Seraphim say she had no injuries when she had hurt ribs and bruises all over her legs and on her head.
- She and everyone who watched heard city leaders imply that if a woman does not call an incident, domestic violence, or make the 911 call – it is not domestic violence.
- She had images of her body being tortured shown on public TV, including pictures of her behind.
- Her testimony on jail was videotaped without her consent and then shown on public TV violating her constitutional right.
- She had to read in the New Gazette the lie that she apologized to the officer – make her appear to appear guilty - when the video does not support this.
- She had to listen to council members say that she needs training in how to interact with the police.

I am happy to answer any questions you have.

Best,
Danielle Chynoweth



- I encourage you to listen to the unedited audio of the videos – April 27th videos redacted.
 - A woman on the ground say “if you have a female officer, she can come search me” – she told you what she needed to be searched and instead a man, having clearly lost his cool, approaches her and puts his hands on her without warning.
 - Everything the woman says shows she felt racially profiled, disrespected, and treated like less than human. Everything she SAYS fighting for her dignity.
 - No one has justified why Officer Ruff kneed her in the rib. Listen to the audio: he does strikes her right after she calls him a racist.
 - Once she is in custody, the police do not allow her time to cool down, instead they force her into a car and end up putting a hood on her head and shackles on her legs.
 - Since then this woman has seen:
 - She saw the Chief of Police say she had no injuries when she had hurt ribs and bruises all over her legs and on her head.
 - She and everyone who watched heard city leaders imply that if a woman does not call an incident, domestic violence, or make the 911 call – it is not domestic violence.
 - She had images of her body being tortured shown on public TV, including pictures of her behind.
 - Her testimony on jail was videotaped without her consent and then shown on public TV violating her constitutional right.
 - She had to read in the New Gazette the lie that she apologized to the officer – make her appear to appear guilty - when the video does not support this.
 - She had to listen to council members say that she needs training in how to interact with the police.
 - Some of the worst trauma comes from how people respond to violence, after the violence happens.
 - publici.ucimc.org.

- That the victim of police brutality still faces charges discredits this conversation. Ms. Lewis still faces multiple charges of aggravating battery – she faces time in jail or prison.

- An independent investigation needs the following:
 - You must put Officer Ruff and Cervantes on administrative leave for this investigation to be credible.
 - The investigation must be done by an organization credible to the community – not a police department.
 - You and the investigator must look at patterns of behavior and complaints of specific officers – Ruff and Cervantes – in particular the behavior by Office Cervantes in the Quinten Brown case.

- The investigator must review the many hours now of public input which has been well researched.
 - Racial prejudice MUST be part of the review.
 - The resulting report must be released to the public.
 - The investigation must look at police policy and use of force – Chief Seraphim has said unequivocally that the behavior of Cervantes and Ruff was “justified” – this calls into question the use of force policy as a whole.
-
- Eric – Send my thoughts to
 - Mary Alice – revise policies to emphasize de-escalation, retool the CPRB
 - Bill – hiring practices – we have not followed up on.
 - Dennis – admin leave
 - Sherise – “empathetic and compassionate”
 - George Floyd deserved to die – he is a N a N a N.
 - Man masturbating again and again.

How many police complaints denied this year. How denying complaints build trust.

[!City Council](#)

Fight Police Brutality Right Here in Our Community

Monday, June 01, 2020 5:37:39 PM

For decades, non-white populations have faced discrimination and unfair treatment at the hands of targeted police brutality. This needs to stop. Police hiring procedures must undergo much more rigorous vetting. Likewise, police training itself has to be reformed to include much more comprehensive gun training (i.e.: learning when NOT to use a gun), peaceful crowd control, and a reduction in violent and excessive force, amongst many other things. This is why we need tighter civilian review procedures as well: to prevent another tragedy to the one which occurred on April 10th in our very own community. After all, in the famous words of author Alan Moore: "who watches the watchmen?".

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Justice for Aleyah Lewis
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 3:30:08 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

I am writing this email to express my concern and frustration for police violence against Aleyah Lewis.

As this incident happened on April 10th, instead of a neutral statement and detailed incident reports, our authorities were highlighting the potential mistakes on Miss Lewis or the community side, through either video announcement or writing reports, to justified the police violence that happened in this case.

In the current social atmosphere, I hope our city council stops ignoring this specific local active case which demonstrated the police violence towards people of color. As community members, we need a proper explanation, independent investigations, and plans to ACTUALLY protect EVERYONE in our local community Indiscriminately.

Please be responsible and accountable; please do not disappoint your community more, then blame us for being angry.

We are watching as you promised to represent us.

as an action plan for your references, the following are the four demands:

- Call for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped.
- Call for a truly meaningful and independent investigation.
- Call for officer who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation.
- Call for reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

Best regards,
Chunky Munchy.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#); [Marlin, Diane](#); [Seraphin, Bryant](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 6:39:58 PM

June 3, 2020

Members of City Council, Mayor Marlin, and Chief Seraphin:

At the protest held in Urbana on Monday, June 1, 2020, the organizers made three broad demands: Justice, Accountability, and Reform. Specifically, the organizers called on elected officials and police chiefs to condemn the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police Officers. We all appreciate your words and statements related to Mr. Floyd's murder at the City Council Meeting that very evening.

I would like to add my specific demands related to Justice, Accountability, and Reform that you can implement immediately.

Justice For Aleyah Lewis

Not only did many of us witness an interaction between Urbana Police Officers and Ms. Lewis on live video during an incident on April 10, but the State's Attorney, Chief of Police, Mayor, and City Council violated Ms. Lewis' dignity and legal rights again April 27. In a very misguided effort to be "transparent," the City Council engaged in a public trial of Ms. Lewis, which included video evidence, testimony, conjecture, opinion, and even discussion of Ms. Lewis' prior conviction. All of this done without the permission or presence of Ms. Lewis or her attorney. The Sixth Amendment to the United State's Constitution State's:

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be **informed of the nature and cause of the accusation**; to be **confronted with the witnesses against him**; to have **compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor**, and to have **the Assistance of Counsel for his defence**.

Ms. Lewis was put on trial at the City Council Meeting. City Council Members acted as judge and jury. There is no way that Ms. Lewis will be able to receive a fair and impartial trial after that City Council Meeting. The City Council can provide justice for Aleyah Lewis by publicly asking the State's Attorney to drop all charges against Ms. Lewis. Notwithstanding the actions of the Urbana Police Officers on April 10, the City Council violated her Constitutional Rights.

During the City Council Meeting, I sent an email to Council Member Bill Brown which stated:

If the suspect [Ms. Lewis] was a White woman with an attorney Urbana City Council would never have been allowed to present prosecutorial evidence for over an hour at a City Council Meeting.

I am saddened by this technique to attempt to explain police action. You are putting this woman on trial without her present to answer these accusations.

Did the City seek a waiver from Ms. Lewis before putting this presentation on at a City Council Meeting? Again, if Ms. Lewis were White, rich, lawyered up, this violation of civil rights would not be taking place.

Accountability for City Council

As elected officials, members of City Council swore to uphold, among other things, the Constitution of the United States of America. You violated that oath on April 27. You did not protect Ms. Lewis' Sixth Amendment Rights. Even worse, you most likely violated her Fourteenth Amendment Rights, that states that all citizens will be treated equally under the law. Each of you know that if Ms. Lewis was a 21 year old White woman, with a private attorney, that you would NOT have presented evidence about her case at an open City Council Meeting. Accountability of City Council looks like apologizing to Ms. Lewis for using her as an example, for re-traumatizing her, for violating her rights, and publicly encouraging the State's Attorney to drop all charges against Ms. Lewis. Please hold yourself accountable to the Human Rights Ordinance (<https://www.urbanaininois.us/government/mayors-office/human-relations/human-relations-commission-hrc/human-rights-ordinance>). If members of the City Council and City Staff do not hold themselves accountable to the ordinances of this City, why do we have local ordinances?

Reform

Immediately following the City Council Meeting, several Urbana Citizens urged me to apply for the open seat on the Citizen Police Review Board. I began to research the ordinance and history of the CPRB, and I realized that it was not a police review board at all, but rather an appeals board. The ordinance is designed to protect the police. The ordinance is designed to make it nearly impossible to file a complaint. The CPRB has no power to demand other evidence. Reform looks like adopting the Ten Shared Principles (<https://www.ilchiefs.org/shared-principles-how-to-adopt>). Reform looks like adopting policies and practices to actively recruit and retain Black and Brown officers and detectives. Reform looks like allowing individuals with criminal convictions a voice on the CPRB and other committees. I will not be submitting my name for consideration on the

CPRB, because it has no real power, as stated by the current chair, who called for these same reforms during the Public Comment on June 1.

Systemic racism is not just a problem in Urbana. It is a problem that is entrenched in hundreds of years of racial violence and oppression in this country. Members of City Council have an opportunity to acknowledge and begin to dismantle the systems and practices that create unequal treatment of Black and Brown citizens. I ask that each of you please do the deep introspective work to help you become more aware, more active, and more strategic in dismantling racism in this City.

I am always available to speak further with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald D. Owen

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted address block]

Urbana, IL 61801

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Letter for Tonight's Meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:55:22 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I have every confidence that you have no intention to contribute to the harm of any Black person in our community. I also believe that the store owner who called Minneapolis police had no intention of to harm George Floyd. I would even go so far as to say that, though harm was clearly intended via the police practice of so-called "appropriate force" I don't believe the officer who killed Mr. Floyd wanted him to die. However, police violence is a system whose ultimate outcomes are beyond the will of any one person.

It is a system in which choices, including who is hired as the police chief, how officers are trained, and how an officer acts in any moment, lead to outcomes. It is a system in which a culture of machismo can result in officers using aggression so that they aren't chided as cowards by their peers, and a system in which officers who are abusive spouses carry their abuse into interactions with perceived perpetrators. It is also a system in which Black people are highly overrepresented in media as criminals, leading to racialized implicit bias so that Black people jogging, birdwatching, driving, sleeping in their homes are perceived as perpetrators, and pre-emptively convicted and sentenced to harm or death by in the minds of officers who act without recourse. (In a recent study, the number of police charged with crimes when they killed a person was under a hundred, while the number of killings with no charges was over 2,500)

It is a system in which you now have choices to support an effective Civilian Police Review Board, push to drop charges against Aleyah Lewis, and defund the police to fund alternatives that actually support community safety.

Today thousands of people came out in our community to end police violence. We are watching what you do, and waiting to hear that you choose us over the way things are.

Be well,
elizaBeth Simpson
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]
I don't have a pronoun preference, but I respect yours.

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Citizen's concern about police incident regarding Aleyah Lewis
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:58:00 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

It came to my attention that there was an incident with the Urbana Police in April, in which officers used undue force against Aleyah Lewis. While the police chief and the state attorney have provided testimony that all went according to law, there are a number of open questions that need to be addressed before agreeing to their judgment.

As you realize, with the death of George Floyd and the demonstrations across the country as well as sympathetic protests in several countries, right now is a time when you will receive a great deal more scrutiny from citizens than perhaps you've been used to. I would suggest that you take the opportunity to address some much needed police reform including meaningful oversight, re-educating police officers to de-escalate situations without immediately resorting to violence, and increased transparency.

In the meanwhile, all charges against Aleyah Lewis should be dropped while a truly meaningful and independent investigation takes place. The police officers involved need to be put on leave. The police chief and the state attorney clearly have vested interests in protecting the police.

Again, police brutality, specifically brutality against people of color, is very much on everyone's minds right now. The incident with Ms. Lewis is not unlike that which resulted in George Floyd's death. Sitting on the chest of someone who has asthma after she's already been restrained? We are watching.

Sincerely,
Emilee Mathews

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Council Meeting Comments (06/01/2020)
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 9:39:09 AM

Dear Urbana City Council,

What heavy times we are living in. Since I last wrote to the council about the Aleyah Lewis case, the country has entered an all-too-familiar stage of grief and outrage regarding violence committed by police against Black Americans and indigenous and minority communities. While our community mourns Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmad Arbery, we have the opportunity to look inward to identify the processes in our community that could lead to the same results. The Aleyah Lewis case is but one example of how police across the country have a pattern of disrespecting Black Americans' rights-- rights such as presumption of innocence, right to know one's charges, and ultimately, the right to their own bodies and to life itself.

I am writing in support of the following requests pertaining to the Aleyah Lewis case and the Civilian Police Review Board. I ask...

1. That the 3rd party investigation of the Good Friday violence and arrest of Aleyah Lewis NOT be done by state police in the interest of true accountability, total transparency, and maintaining trust with the community,
2. That the charges against Aleyah Lewis be dropped, due to the police use of excessive force and their lack of deescalation tactics,
3. That the officers who assaulted Ms. Lewis be put on leave pending the investigation, and finally,
4. That the Citizen Police Review Board be reformed to provide meaningful oversight of use of force by officers, including complying with its ordinance to review all deployments of tasers against civilians.

In the current times, we must remember that complacency in the face of injustice only fuels anger, and we must renew our commitment to showing up when our community members voice legitimate demands. It may be inconvenient or politically unpopular for some to prioritize the community's grievances over the status quo which is favored by those in power. However, this is the way forward.

We cannot be apathetic. We cannot see community members' grievances as nuisances. These are gifts-- bringing our grievances to our leaders with faith that they will listen and will act are gifts that allow local officials to address needs with minimal disruption. In order to maintain faith in the process of local government, the people must see results and a good faith effort on behalf of our elected officials to address our grievances.

I urge us not to be complacent, and instead to demonstrate an urgency for rectifying the unjust structures of our society.

Thank you,
Emily Blevins

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [City Council](#)
Date: Public Input
Monday, June 01, 2020 6:57:35 PM

Good evening. Last Monday night, Mayor Marlin spoke with power and conviction about trees. She extolled the virtues of living in Urbana, a city blessed with many large and lovely trees. She was talking about the MCORE project, which will result in the removal of several large trees from the Green Street area.

1) I'm waiting for the mayor to speak with the same power and conviction about the failures of the Civilian Police Review Board over the last twelve years to serve anyone other than the members of the Urbana Police Department.

2) I'm waiting for her to explain away all the staffing changes that gutted a Civilian Police Review Board that was already on life support. In short order, Human Resources Director Todd Rent; Community Relations Specialist Preston James (a retired Urbana police officer, by the way); his wife Monique James, an employee of the Urbana Police Department; and Civilian Police Review Board Chair Grace Mitchell jumped or were pushed from the sinking ship known as the Civilian Police Review Board.

3) I'm waiting for the mayor to have - instead of a mysterious and exclusionary meeting with community leaders as she did on May 8 - an open and public meeting with the citizens of this community, whom I'm certain could school her quite nicely on the deficient "community policing model" described in yesterday's News-Gazette.

In short, I'd like the mayor to drum up just a fraction of the enthusiasm and support for the citizens of Urbana who file charges of misconduct against sworn police officers as she does for the trees of Urbana.

Thank you for listening.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: I, Emma, Demand Urbana Police Department Policy Reform
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 4:38:30 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

My name is Emma and I am a registered voter here in C-U. I am writing to you today to ask what you are doing, as council members, to ensure that your officers are not abusing their power and are held accountable for their actions.

After witnessing the death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, I am left feeling outraged, frustrated, and hurt. The system has failed yet another black man and we are anxiously waiting to see if the officers responsible for his death will face consequences.

As a resident of C-U, I want to make sure that my local police department is taking the necessary preventative measures to ensure that incidents like this will not occur in the future. So I ask:

- Are the police officers in the Urbana Police Department being trained to de-escalate altercations by using peaceful conflict resolution strategies?
- Are the police officers in the Urbana Police Department forbidden from using carotid restraints (chokeholds, strangleholds, etc.) and hog-tying methods? Furthermore, are they forbidden from transporting civilians in uncomfortable positions, such as face down in a vehicle?
- Are the police officers in the Urbana Police Department required to intervene if they witness another officer using excessive force? Will officers be reprimanded if they fail to intervene?
- Are the police officers in the Urbana Police Department forbidden from shooting at moving vehicles?
- Is there a clear and enforced use-of-force continuum that details what weapons and force are acceptable in a wide variety of civilian-police interactions?
- Are the officers in the Urbana Police Department required to exhaust every other possible option before using excessive force?
- Are the officers in the Urbana Police Department required to give a verbal warning to civilians before drawing their weapon or using excessive force?
- Are the officers in the Urbana Police Department required to report each time they threaten to or use force on civilians?
- Are the officers in the Urbana Police Department thoroughly vetted to ensure that they do not have a history with abuse, racism, xenophobia, homophobia / transphobia, or discrimination?
- Are the officers in the Urbana Police Department trained to perform and seek necessary medical action after using excessive force?
- Is there an early intervention system enforced to correct officers who use excessive force? Additionally, how many complaints does an officer have to receive before they are reprimanded? Before they are terminated? More than three complaints are unacceptable.

Statistics have indicated that by enforcing these policies, there is a significant decrease in civilian complaints and injury due to excessive force. If any of the policies are not currently in place, then what is being done to ensure that they are going to be enforced in the near future? What can I do, as a concerned citizen, to set these policies in motion?

I also want to increase the level of trust between the police department and the community. To establish trust, there has to be transparency. I would like to see the Urbana Police Department collect and report data on civilian deaths that occurred in custody and as a result of an officer's use of excessive force. The data should be broken down by demographics and should showcase the race, gender, sexuality, and religion of the civilians. Allowing the public access to this information will show us where we, as a community, fall short.

Thank you for your time and I hope that we can work together to protect the Urbana community. I refuse to let the next hashtag come from here.

Sincerely,
Emma



[!City Council](#)

Continue the meeting! I second the notion that reform will not work
Monday, June 01, 2020 8:19:31 PM

Dear Council,

In respond to the ongoing Zoom meeting 6/1/20:

I second Council-person Jared Miller's point that police departments in MN and elsewhere around the country received implicit bias training. Yet we continue to see them murder black and brown people in the streets. The training doesn't work. A more radical transformation -- not merely reform -- of policing is needed to ensure the safety of our communities. Greater citizen oversight would be a fantastic improvement. But we must also rethink the institution of the police and their role in protecting people, not just shopping malls and chain stores.

Eric S. Godoy, PhD

Hello,

I am an Asian American Urbana resident and I would like to make my concerns known to the Urbana City Council. Please make sure these happen:

- Drop all charges against Aleyah Lewis.
- Have a meaningful and independent investigation of the Lewis case.
- Put the officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation
- Make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Sincerely,
Esther Murray

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:29:46 PM

This was received via Citizens' Voice.

Barb Stiehl

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.

----- Original message -----

From: Gabby Castellanos via City of Urbana <webmaster@city.urbana.il.us>
Date: 6/1/20 12:47 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: ! Citizens' Voice <CitizensVoice@urbanaininois.us>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us



Submitted on Monday, June 1, 2020 - 12:47
Submitted by: 2601:240:8100:32b0:6891:ed76 f713:9b05

Submitted values are:

Name: Gabby Castellanos
Email: [REDACTED]

Choose an Issue: Police

Comment: DROP ALL CHARGES ON ALEYAH LEWIS IMMEDIATELY!!!! These felony charges latently encourage and reward police brutality.

From: 
 [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for June 1st Meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 12:41:36 PM

Hello,

The issue of police brutality and police accountability has reached a global level of concern. Now, more than ever, is the time to take complaints and concerns about police brutality seriously. Protests in the Champaign-Urbana community have already started, and continuing defense of the police behavior during the arrest of Ms. Lewis will show to the community that our voices aren't being heard.

Derek Chauvin had at least 17 misconduct complaints before killing George Floyd. These 17 misconduct complaints weren't met with the proper ramifications. The Urbana Police Department has the opportunity to avoid being negligent, and it seems they're putting more effort into protecting police officers than they are the citizens of Urbana.

Anyone that has seen video footage of the Good Friday arrest can clearly see that the police officers took the immediate action that lead to the physical assault. Punishing Ms. Lewis with felony charges of up to 12 years for an incident she did not incite is inhumane -- especially when the police chief admitted that the officers weren't adequately trained on de-escalation and the UPD has not adopted the 10 Shared Principles. **All charges against Ms. Lewis must be dropped immediately.**

The defenses for the police officers by the chief police and state attorney are that no laws were violated by the police during the incident of police brutality. I will stress this point again: now is the time to enact change. If the police officers didn't violate any laws, then the laws need to be revised.

I also advocate for the following:

- * A full independent investigation of police misconduct with public disclosure of findings
- *The officers involved be put on administrative leave
- *The resignation of police chief for failing to respond to this incidence of police brutality appropriately
- *An independent investigation of Ms. Lewis' assault by officers with a taser in jail
- ***Redesigning the Civilian Review Board to be a meaningful and useful process that allows for any witness to submit a complaint, has subpoena power, and has disciplinary power to take action in its findings**

- Gabby Castellanos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Police Violence
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:59:47 PM

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express concerns for disproportionate uses of violence on the public, more yet upon people of color and those more vulnerable, and to address where we need to move from here.

My name is George Hardebeck. I moved to Urbana and the Township, from Cincinnati, Ohio, in May of 2012, began a weekly radio show out of the Independent Media Center in 2013, where I have shared frequently on moving from imperial to mutual systems, in society, economy, culture... and ecology, and hosted a support group that deals with like concerns, while joining other efforts and being on the IMC board for some recent years. In Cincinnati, I took on initiating a reconciliation effort with Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Life, ecologically for many years through various annual efforts, after being part of many social to ecological community projects over decades.

I see the current work in discussion as reconciliation, moving from abusive imbalances of power, to healthy mutual ones, and this being strongly related to such economic imbalances. To really look at this, we need to see a wide cultural context, including pre-to-post-imperial Indigenous, who may offer us the clearest perspective.

My own family began my understandings of such, having a father who continued sergeantry, after training young men in a US armed service to dominate, harm and kill others. In my childhood he had moved to owning and running a nursing home, and lived also his broadly compassionate, warmer and playful and re-creative values, retiring to be our home parent, while my mother continued nursing. She began nurses training at 17, in London, soon under Hitler's bombs. She was born in southwestern Ireland during the civil war, really a revolutionary one to oust imperialism, being fostered to an aunt at four years to a home burned down by Britain's constabulary, along with many in her village, and the dairy coop, not unlike many towns then, along with her uncle who suffered PTSD. I suffered some PTSD myself as the trauma and power imbalances of these lives, came down to my generation, some of this added to by tragic family losses, due in part to such issues. Gratefully, my life journey also came with rich gifts of a deeper level helping to carry me through.

What I call you to now, without sharing too much more of my story here, is to not take current norms of power structures for granted. Our current neo-imperial plutocratic oligarchy is not the mutual society sought and fought for centuries ago and since, yet - quite the understatement. There are many ways to see this more clearly, sharing resources, to learn of psychological studies that show how this comes into being, and can be turned, with examples of solution at hand for all, while this turning is crucial for so many, and to turn from our current demise ahead, being in a quickening mass extinction - with slavery to genocides and ecocide all due to greatly abusive greed addiction led dysfunctional imperial systems, in which we all are part in varying ways and degrees.

We can look back at our time, seeing we chose well or maybe not be a people and species able to look back at all, depending on how we all approach these days, with some variables able to compound sharply, allowing little return, who knows how soon ahead. With our current

budding people's media, we have more hope to find collective solution than ever, also with each other here.

I encourage you to join with many, here especially, to listen and discern mutually, especially with those most harmed, encouraging all public servants to take on such mutual work in circles, seeking what has grown unfamiliar in these times, in how true community can work and prosper, together, and grow to become even leaders in this, servant leaders, of course.

Sincere Thanks, for All
Blessings for All

George Hardebeck


[!City Council](#)

input regarding Urbana Police Department oversight
Monday, June 01, 2020 2:52:02 PM

Dear Urbana City Council Members,

I am an "ivory tower" faculty member in a university psychology department who has typically remained uninvolved in political activism, but the events of preventable racialized violence that have been accumulating finally reached a tipping point for me that made me feel compelled to seek ways to speak against the practices that have allowed such atrocities to continue, both nationally and in our own community.

I would like to add my voice to the growing shout to take steps to address violent tactics and biased/non-transparent representation of their actions by the Urbana Police Department. In particular, I support the call for an independent investigation of the arrest and beating of Aleyah Lewis, during which time the officers involved should be placed on leave and the charges against Ms. Lewis dropped. I further support steps toward redesigning and strengthening the Urbana Civilian Police Review Board.

Thank you for listening to the voices of those both directly involved and those who are awakening to the collective burden we carry due to ongoing uncorrected imbalances in systemic power. I hope that you can be a part of enacting the changes that will lead to healing and a better future for us all.

Sincerely,
Heidemarie Laurent

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Input on CPRB for June 1
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 11:52:07 AM

Dear City Council,

I am writing to urge the Urbana Police Department, working together with the Citizen Police Review Board and the City Council, to acknowledge the long history of racially-biased policing, and to explicitly commit itself to anti-racist police practice. I urge the city to begin this work with a thorough investigation of the April 10 arrest of Aleyah Lewis. I hope 1) that the charges against Aleyah Lewis will be dropped, 2) that a meaningful, independent, and transparent investigation into her arrest will be conducted, and 3) that the Citizen Police Review Board will become subject to meaningful oversight.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jamie Jones

[!City Council](#)
Public Comments
Monday, June 01, 2020 6:53:24 PM

Dear Council,

I thank you for taking an interest in reforming the broken Civilian Police Review Board.

This week, I was disappointed that the Police Department has rejected my attempt to initiate an investigation of the Good Friday beating by Urbana Police. The CPRB needs to be a meaningful, open and honest process.

Also please do the right thing: push for all charges to be dropped, put the officers on leave pending a serious independent investigation and make the CPRB do its job. We need to get serious about racial justice in Urbana before there is yet another tragic incident of violence.

It is clear that our criminal justice system is broken across the country. You have the power to begin to change that in our community.

Sincerely,

Jane

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#); [Seraphin, Bryant](#); [Marlin, Diane](#)
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] Concerns about Training and Policies
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:19:57 PM
Importance: Low

Dear Council Members, Mayor Marlin, and Chief Saraphin,

My name is Jeanne Ward and I am a resident of Ward 7 in Urbana. I am unable to participate in today's protest or city council meeting, but I wanted to make my voice heard to you all anyhow. As I'm sure all of you are feeling, I am very concerned about the multiple situations facing our country and our community. Although COVID-19 is a relatively new challenge, the challenge of racism has been in existence for far too long. I have generally been impressed with law enforcement in this community. I've seen many officers doing good work and interfacing with the community in positive ways. However, I am writing about several concerns.

It is my understanding that as a city council, you have yet to adopt the "10 Shared Principals" put together by the NAACP in cooperation with the Illinois Law Enforcement. After reading these principals carefully, I must **urge you to pass them immediately, and then to do whatever training is necessary in our local police forces to ensure that they are followed.**

A couple of these principals stood out in particular. One of them refers to procedural justice, including the pillars of fairness, voice, transparency and impartiality. The area of voice has not been fully followed through on, although I feel you as a council had some good intentions. It is my understanding that our Civilian Police Review Board, which would be a great vehicle for the community having voice in terms of justice, has not been operating fully in the last 5 years, and has not been filing the reports they are to be filing. This is so important in order for our community members to be able to develop the trust in law enforcement that would make your job easier and would provide the community with better service.

The other item that jumped out was the necessity for de-escalation training. I have just retired from being a teacher at Cunningham Children's Home for 27 years. We are trained twice a year in therapeutic crisis intervention (TCI) which spends a great deal of time on de-escalation training and also on safe use of physical restraint if necessary. We know that as employees at Cunningham, we are to use that physical restraint only as a very last resort, and that attempts to de-escalate must happen first if at all possible. If we do have to use physical restraint, one of the things that is taught most strongly is that if anyone complains that they cannot breathe you must **ALWAYS** adjust the hold, even if you believe their breathing is not impeded. We are also taught that if we notice another staff member seems to be drawn in to a power struggle with one of our students, we are to "tap them out" in order to keep the situation as calm as possible. It is only by trusting each other that this works. After watching the horrific video of George Floyd's murder last week, I could only think that if I was trained in that sort of skill, **SURELY, SURELY** our police officers must be, and must be monitored to be sure they are using the skills they are trained in. I must say, my thoughts also went in that direction after watching the video of our local police officers punching an unarmed woman earlier this spring. It is hard to imagine that de-escalation strategies were being effectively employed in that situation before it

turned to violence.

I urge you as a city council to ensure that these 10 shared principals are passed, tonight if possible, and that they are carried out with all possible care and urgency. I urge you, Chief Seraphin to review de-escalation training and principals with your officers, thoroughly and often. I urge all of you to be sure that our Civilian Review Board is a real thing, and that it does careful work and is accountable to you and to the community.

Thank you so much for your service, and for attending to these matters with great care!

Jeanne Ward



From: [REDACTED]
[\[City Council\]](#)
Subject: policing in Urbana and America
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 2:37:43 AM

In the midst of the nationwide unrest over police brutality, excessive force, and lack of accountability, now is the time to ask ourselves difficult questions about the nature of policing in America and in our own city. In that vein, I would like answers to the following questions about the Urbana Police Department:

- Does the Urbana Police Department currently employ any officers who have been fired from another department for use of excessive force? Does the UPD have a policy against hiring any officer who has ever been fired due to excessive force?
- Are there officers employed by the UPD who have been found to use excessive force in their current position? If so, how many times can an officer use excessive force and still remain with UPD? Are records of officer misconduct expunged after a certain amount of time? If so, what is the policy on that?
- Is the use of force considered justified to attain "compliance" from a subject, even in the absence of reason to believe that they present a danger? Is being disrespectful of an officer considered non-compliance that then justifies the use of force? We have certainly seen examples of this in other jurisdictions around the country.
- How much training in de-escalation and non-violent conflict resolution do officers receive, and how does that compare with time spent on weapons training and other training related to use of force?
- What are the consequences for an officer who does not make an adequate effort to de-escalate a situation, where possible, before using force?
- Is it reasonable to expect that when a police officer puts hands on someone, particularly if it happens suddenly, they will stay perfectly calm and not struggle? Most people's instincts would tell them to try to get away if someone grabs or strikes them, particularly if it happens unexpectedly or (in their view) unjustly. If this is a reason to then apply more force, a lot of people are going to get unnecessarily hurt. Especially when the UPD manual states that "An officer may use any force which he/she reasonably believes to be necessary to effect an arrest."
- Has the UPD received military equipment under the 1033 program? If so, what is the evidence that a sufficient threat exists to justify its use?

The Chief of Police stated at the June 1 City Council meeting that he was shocked when he saw the video of George Floyd's murder. I believe him. But that incident, though particularly egregious, is not disconnected from the culture of American policing as a whole. It is a culture in which officers are allowed, sometimes even encouraged, to use tactics against members of the community that our armed forces are prohibited from using against "enemy" civilians. It is a culture in which an officer who is fired by one department for use of excessive force can just get hired on by another department. It is a culture that values the lives of Black people, brown people, and poor people less than the lives of white and well-off people. It is a culture that demands compliance but rejects the very legitimacy of outside accountability; how many times have we heard that nobody who isn't a police officer can possibly understand the job?

Any hint of that toxic culture creeping into Urbana policing must be resisted. The Urbana Police Department may be better than many, but there is still room for improvement. It shouldn't take an unjust death at the hands of police officers to spur us to make changes that increase the safety of, and respect for, every member of our community.

—
Jennifer Roth

P.S. There is no need to read this email at a meeting as public input—people don't need to sit through that whole thing.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council: Marlin, Diane](#)
Subject: End Police Violence
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 3:18:38 PM

The Urbana community is diverse and complex, and that is one of its greatest strengths. However, we have too long allowed the people that are here to serve and protect our community pass with behaviors that diminish the safety and trust of a large percentage of the residents in our community. Police are public servants. They are here to make our neighborhoods safe. They are here to ensure that justice (which includes true due process) is served. I don't feel safe in a community in which our police force is not centered in the compassionate pursuit of justice for all of our many residents. Therefore, I stand by the C-U Chapter of Show Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) in their demands that:

- All charges against Aleyah Lewis be dropped
- A truly meaningful and independent investigation be conducted into the Aleyah Lewis incident
- The officers who beat Ms. Lewis be put on leave pending the investigation
- The Citizen Police Review Board be utilized as a meaningful oversight committee.

I would also, personally, like to request that the Urbana Police Department:

- Utilize body cameras and all available technologies and strategies available for reducing police aggression in our community (including de-escalation techniques in all interactions) while keeping our communities safe.
- Implement hiring processes that allow for the police department to better represent the racial make-up of our community and that expand the number of members of the force who actually live in Urbana with the residents that they support.
- Reduce unnecessary patrols in primarily black communities focusing, instead, on building community trust and addressing community challenges with residents as partners.

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [|City Council](#); [| Brown, Bill](#); [| Roberts, Dennis](#); [| Jakobsson, Eric](#); [| Miller, Jared](#); [| Wu, Maryalice](#); [| Hursey, Shirese](#); [| Colbrook, William](#)
Cc: [Marlin, Diane](#)
Subject: Comments on Urbana CPRB Report
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 5:27:01 PM

Dear Urbana City Council members,

Thanks for the opportunity to submit my comments to you, and thank you for your service. I wanted to send an email because I have a longer set of comments that won't fit into the 3 minute time limit that will be imposed at the meeting. Nevertheless, I want to enter this into the record and hope you will read it. I will also be giving some oral comments at the meeting tonight (June 1).

First, I want to say thank you for issuing this review of the CPRB and for continuing to discuss ways to increase accountability of police to the citizenry of Urbana as well as ways to deal with the fallout of the police abuse of an Urbana resident last month.

I want to echo the demands of the other folks who will be emailing you and speaking.

- We call for the City of Urbana, especially Mayor Marlin, to press for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped by the DA
- We call for a truly meaningful and independent investigation, not the one-sided, hastily-done review by the Urbana PD but an independent and careful review
- We call for officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation. This is really important to restore the community's trust in the police department and city leadership.
- We call for reform of the CPRB to make it a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance. It's this last point that I want to discuss in this email.

As you can tell by the Report issued by city staff, there are **lots** of problems with the CPRB. The report focuses on only one set of problems -- how the CPRB has been negligent in fulfilling its duty **for years**. The CPRB has not issued its yearly report for five years, as mandated by city ordinance. The CPRB has not had regular quarterly meetings for years, also as mandated by the ordinance. The board has only received a handful of complaints, a testament to the lack of transparency, accountability, and faith in the system by the public. The Urbana Police Department has stopped forwarding citizen complaints to the CPRB in violation of the city ordinance, and there is evidence that members of city staff are also undermining the operation of the CPRB. All of this is no only documented in the city's own report but also in other sources [here](#) and [here](#).

Implementation of city policy around citizen/police review is obviously essential to the fair enforcement of laws and to the relationship between the police, the city government, and Urbana residents. You all know that. However, I also want to focus on serious shortcomings in the actual ordinance establishing the CPRB (19-20 of city code). EVEN IF the ordinance were enforced to the letter, it would still not ensure a fair and effective review process. Serious changes are needed to the ordinance -- changes that only the City Council can make.

The current civilian police review ordinance does not conform to the best practices for civilian oversight of police, as set out by the [National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement](#) (NACOLE). These aspects of the ordinance also just don't make sense and contribute to a broken process that needs to be fixed. Here are a few problems.

1. Timeline on filing a complaint. Sec. 19-28(g)

The ordinance requires that all complaints to the Board be filed within 45 days of the incident in question. This timeline is a **major barrier** to citizens making use of civilian police review. Moreover, it flies in the face of best practices and what many of the most successful municipalities do. Think about it: you have 45 days from the incident to file a complaint. If you were arrested, or your car was impounded, you have to try to make bail and be released and/or get your car out of impound first before you can even begin to

undergo the long in-person application process. You may be dealing with health issues, emotional issues, family issues or economic issues or problems with employment. On top of all of that, you have, maybe, a month at most to organize all your statements, witnesses, fill out the application before you arrange to sit down with an HRO officer to file the complaint. The ordinance also says that CPRB can't consider complaints on active investigations, which drastically cuts into those 45 days to file a complaint for many people.

The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) [states](#) "a statute of limitations is regularly put in place to ensure timely filing. . . . However, the need to preserve the quality of an investigation must be balanced with the need to ensure that complainants are not overly constricted in their ability to file a complaint." They recommend a standard **one year time frame** for the filing of complaints. A review of other civilian review agencies in comparable cities (like [Albany NY](#) and [Eugene OR](#)) shows that a **180 day** timeframe is standard. Our ordinance only allows for 45 days! **This is a serious problem, and you need to change it.**

2. Response to CPRB Decision - 19-34(a)

According to the Urbana ordinance, if the Chief of Police goes against the decision of the CPRB on a complaint and appeal, there is no requirement for him to justify his decision in writing. What happens is the CPRB and police chief have a meeting to discuss their differences and then the HRO makes a brief report of this meeting to the mayor, but that report is not necessarily detailed or made public. Again, NACOLE recommends police chiefs make a **formal written report** to civilian review boards that are publicly accessible and detail why their decision differs from the board's review. They [say](#) "the police executive or commission with the authority to reject oversight recommendations should justify his or her decision in writing as the absence of a well-reasoned justification raises issues of bias and a possible lack of respect for the oversight process and the community." **The City Council should amend the ordinance to ensure this essential aspect of transparency in the complaint review process.**

3. Lack of specific provision in ordinance for pro-active review - 19-27(3)

Right now the Urbana CPRB ordinance mostly focuses on reactive review of civilian complaints. While this is important, it is not enough to ensure the goal of just policing and good community/police relations. For this, a greater requirement or mandate for the CPRB to engage in proactive review of law enforcement policies is necessary. Key to an effective civilian oversight body, [according to NACOLE](#) is the "Ability to review police policies, training and other systematic issues. Many see this as one of the most important roles an effective oversight agency can have. This ability shifts the focus on being reactive to past events to proactive with the possibility to resolve issues before they begin." Again, many other similar-sized municipalities have specific provisions in their ordinances where they mandate that their version of a civilian oversight body produce annual reports that take a more proactive and big-picture focus, where they assess broader trends in the complaint process and evaluate the effectiveness of the process and make recommendations for improvement of oversight. For example, Eugene, OR ordinance [states](#) "(7) The civilian review board shall prepare and present an annual report to the city council that: (a) Summarizes the civilian review board's activities, findings and recommendations during the preceding year; (b) Assesses the performance of the police auditor consistent with section 2.244(7); and (c) Evaluates the work of the auditor's office, including whether the auditor's office is functioning as intended." Compare this with the aspects of reporting in our ordinance (19-27) where the CPRB report only does part (a) above. Granted we don't have a police auditor but the point still stands -- There is no evaluative or proactive role in this reporting, only summarizing the reactive review of civilian complaints. It does mention that the CPRB has "the authority to make recommendations to the police chief, mayor and city council regarding police department policies and practices, based on its consideration of information received," but it doesn't mandate any such report or set of recommendations. We have seen that we can't trust the board to do this as a matter of course; it should be statutorily required of them in a yearly report to produce such analysis and recommendations. **We should update our ordinance to include some kind of charge for the CPRB where they have to assess the complaint process and the police cooperation and make recommendations for improving it every year.** Otherwise, if the board continues to be purely reactive, we will end up back in this situation again.

--

I am sure there are flaws to my analysis and that others will have more knowledge and experience to recommend better changes. But, as you can see, there are major problems in our civilian police review ordinance right now. They make the process of civilian review ineffective and untrustworthy to citizens. They hamper the goals of the review process. Only the City Council can make the necessary changes to the ordinance to ensure its effectiveness. Only the City Council can compel city staff, the members of the board, and the Mayor to ensure that the review ordinance is properly enforced (e.g., demanding yearly reports from the Board).

I hope you will take the opportunity of this moment not only to protect the city and to deal with the fallout of public anger and frustration. I hope you will go beyond that and seize this moment to make proactive changes in city laws and governance that can ensure greater justice and accountability to the residents of Urbana. I have faith that the seven of you will summon the moral courage to push for justice for Ms. Lewis and for changes that can ensure that these kinds of injustices don't happen in Urbana. Using your power to make the police more accountable to the citizenry of the city is a key part of that change.

Thanks for reading and considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

David Cisneros

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From:

Subject:

Date:

Public input - Julie Nieset

Monday, June 01, 2020 6:55:13 PM

Public input

Respectfully submitted by: Julie Nieset, resident, Urbana 61801

Hello,

I was dismayed to see the video footage of Aleyah Lewis's arrest by Urbana Police Department personnel. I would consider that use of excessive force by UPD. I have seen video cams in our local courtroom of Urbana Police chasing people down people in our community with tasers and guns out while running in residential areas, one in particular of a black man who they thought "fit the description" but in reality if they had looked at his hair and other features he did not "fit the description". Their actions of tasers and loaded guns drawn while running in residential areas are not what most people deem acceptable. These officers exercised poor judgement. What can help is a strict no tolerance policy regarding the use of excessive force, a review board with some teeth, as well as appropriate training.

The Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) has some potential for reviewing incidents and making recommendations that can reduce UPD use of force as well as helping to advise in effective training and considerations by the UPD. Unfortunately, it seems that the many legitimate complaints are disqualified, all Taser incidents aren't reviewed, other administrative red-tape and convolutions all serving to block the potential effectiveness of the CPRB to help create better policing. I see that the CPRB Reports to City Council will be discussed at the meeting tonight and I am hopeful that lapses in reporting are to be rectified and that the process will be transparent to the public.

The NAACP and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police have affirmed the 10 Shared Principles for building relationships and trust between both the police and black community. The Urbana Police Department needs to also adopt these principles. <https://www.ilchiefs.org/shared-principles> UIUC PD has already adopted them <https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/6221/801833> What are the reasons behind UPD not adopting them? Recently our county NAACP President Minnie Pearson emphasized the need for the adoption and implementation of these principles in our UPD, most specifically "de-escalation training should be required to ensure the safety of community members and officers. We endorse using de-escalation tactics to reduce the potential for confrontations that endanger law enforcement officers and community members; and the principle that human life should be taken only as a last resort".

Going back to the case of Aleyah Lewis, the internal affairs investigation needs to have an independent third-party that is considered credible and impartial by Urbana residents. I ask that all charges be dropped against Ms. Lewis.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Nieset

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comment for City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:14:51 AM

Dear members of the Urbana City Council,

Actions over the past week, ignited by the killing of George Floyd, have been harrowing for all of us. Undoubtedly the Council is reckoning with what this means for our peaceful, seemingly isolated Midwestern city. What does this mean for us? What can our city do to prevent social unrest here? These are questions we should all ask ourselves. To aid in that conversation, I have a few proposals I would like to have read aloud, and if time permits, I'd like to hear responses from the Council members:

1) Institute a mandatory, yearly, anti-oppression training for all active members of the Urbana police force. This is, I believe, the *least* we can do in response to the national outcry against racialized police violence in this country, which our city is not immune to (see for example the April 10th tasing of a woman already in Urbana police custody). We can argue about individual cases--whether they were affected by racial issues or not--but the bottom line is that people in our community want a more socially educated Police force, and this is one step toward that direction.

2) Reduce the militarization of our police force. Put a freeze on any new purchase or acquisition of police weaponry, shielding, vehicles, etc., and publicize it. If there are no plans to this effect anyway--great--publicize it. This will show our community that our police force is not in the business of oppressing its citizens and acquiring unnecessary tools of police violence.

3) Make a formal statement on behalf of the City Council condemning the killing of George Floyd and police violence everywhere. This will let our community know that the City Council stands with us, and that you acknowledge that sometimes structures of policing can be broken, and that we will work together to fix them whenever necessary.

In short, stand on the right side of history.

Thank you,
-Kai Shinbrough

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Aleyah Lewis
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 11:27:52 AM

Dear Council Members,

I am fifty three years old, and have been witnessing this same struggle all my life. It has been shown time and again that our criminal justice system, and the way we police in this country is racially biased. Studies have shown that racism is systemic throughout our judicial system and throughout police departments across the country. Urbana is no different.

Several years ago, after the killing of Kiwane Carrington, I had thought that the Urbana Police Department was making steps to become at least a little less racially biased. I took hope in the creation of the Civilian Police Review Board. It is long past time for the Urbana Police Department to own up to its own limitations, and its own systemic racism.

As a community, we can do better. There are many proven ways to de-escalate, use community policing, and allow for citizen oversight, that all lessen the effects racism has on policing. I demand that all charges be dropped against Aleyah Lewis. I demand that all the officers involved in her arrest be put on administrative leave. Lastly, I demand that the Civilian Police Review Board review all aspects of this arrest, and that the board be allowed to review all complaints received by the UPD.

Karen Linder

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Letter regarding police protocols
Date: Thursday, June 04, 2020 7:51:53 AM

Dear neighbors and officials,

Apparently, my letter was not read that this past week's city Council meeting, which I understand was very difficult for everyone. However, I urge you to prioritize letters like mine that ask real questions or make proposals for how to improve police oversight in Urbana.

There is a wonderful book by Robyn DiAngelo called *White Fragility*. I recommend that you read it as soon as possible! Black folks will already know and understand what is in this book, so the applies to those of you who are new to thinking about this. In it you will learn, among other things: Recounting and or dwelling on white feelings of guilt is, frankly, a quite usual distraction from the real issue of addressing racism. White people have felt badly for a long time. It hasn't stopped public torture and killings of unarmed Black people by police officers.

I'm sure you are in pain. For many of you, this is the first time you have really had to take a hard look at your own role in perpetuating racism. Welcome to that ongoing difficulty, one that I also face daily as a white person.

But people of color are in more pain. Please get to work. I request a substantive response in writing to my letter of May 10, below. Please answer my questions. You represent me as a citizen, and I appreciate your work as public officials. But please consider and reply to these questions. Email is fine. I am counting on you.

Best,
Kate McDowell

On Sun, May 10, 2020 at 9:12 AM Kate McDowell [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear neighbors and hardworking public servants,

Please find, attached, a letter regarding police protocols in a recent arrest. In addition to those directly addressed (Mayor Diane Marlin, Police Chief Bryant Seraphin, cc: Vacellia Clark for Civilian Police Review Board), I am also including the City Council email address, and I ask that you please read this as well.

best wishes,
Kate

Kate McDowell

--
Kate McDowell

From:

Subject:

Date:

Police

Sunday, May 31, 2020 9:50:55 AM

Urbana City Council Members:

Over the past few decades, we've seen police act with violence, even when filmed, because they believe they will not be held accountable for their actions. This needs to change.

I ask that Urbana makes restitutions for their most recent act of police brutality and drop charges on Aleyah Lewis. There should also be an independent investigation, during which the officers involved should be placed on leave.

In addition, the Citizen Police Review Board should be empowered to have true, meaningful oversight of the police department.

Thank you,
Kate Ross

From:

██████████
[!City Council](#)

Subject:

Comment on Citizens Review Board issue for June 1 City Council Meeting

Date:

Monday, June 01, 2020 6:59:21 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

If it's not too late to comment, I am very concerned as an Urbana citizen about what I have learned about the inactivity of and restrictions on the Citizens Police Review Board, especially in light of recent issues raised by the arrest of a young Urbana woman. No justice can occur without transparency and accountability, so I am eager to hear what the Council may address with regard to rectifying the problems with the policies regarding the process of filling complaints to the board. More than this certainly has to occur for the requirements of justice to be met, but it would seem to be a bare minimum for a sense of transparency between citizens and the police.

Kathryn Oberdeck

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Justice for Aleyah Lewis
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 12:40:43 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

The community of Urbana demands for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped. She was wrongfully detained and the use of excessive force was not only completely unnecessary, but incredibly wrong. We must have an independent investigation focusing on the events occurring on Good Friday and the officers responsible for the beating of Lewis must be put on leave pending the investigation. It is not enough to call out injustice in other parts of our country, but we must acknowledge the injustices present in our very own community and police force. The Urbana City Council must work toward making the Champaign-Urbana community safe for *all* of its citizens, and dismantle the pattern of violence seen in both the Urbana and Champaign Police Departments.

The community of Urbana also demands reform that makes the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight, and that the police comply with its ordinance. The system in place for citizens to file complaints and for the CPRB to review these complaints is altogether inaccessible. It is clear through the complicated rules of this bureaucratic process that the Urbana Police Department is actively seeking to make it more difficult for complaints to be filed and for the CPRB to receive any information about these complaints. This cannot stand. The Urbana Police Department must be held accountable for any and all complaints logged against them.

With the events occurring all over the country, in response to the murder of George Floyd, there is no better time for the City of Urbana to step up to the plate to fight racial injustice. I implore the Urbana City Council to stand against injustice in our community, particularly in the Urbana Police Department. I implore the Urbana City Council to take into account the voices of its community calling for reform in the face of violence in law enforcement. The pattern of racial injustice and violence in Urbana must end.

Sincerely,
Kitty Schwartz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 5:49:55 PM

I have been a proud Urbana resident for 11 years, and I love my community more every day. But there is room for improvement, specifically surrounding the handling of the Aleyah Lewis case. Mayor Marlin, Chief Seraphin, and the City Council need to admit that Ms. Lewis experienced police brutality and the fault rests solely with the officers. These officers need to be held accountable, and use of excessive force needs to be addressed in a systematic and systemic manner. In addition, the current CPRB is not working. This body needs to be responsive, without the requirement for witnesses to have seen acts of brutality in person, and it needs to allow people with felony convictions to serve on the board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Quinn
[REDACTED]

From:

██████████
[City Council](#)

Subject:

Public comment for 6/1 city council meeting

Date:

Monday, June 01, 2020 7:37:30 PM

My name is Lena Walker, I am a graduate student at UIUC and I would like to urge the Urbana city council to take a meaningful stand against police brutality in this community. I share my support of calls for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped, as well for a full and independent investigation. The officers who assaulted Ms. Lewis should also be put on leave pending this investigation. Finally, the Citizen Police Review Board must be reformed so that it can fully comply with its ordinance. We must have accountability from our leadership, and justice for all residents of this community. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
[!City Council](#)
Subject: Meeting Agenda & Process Tonight & Beyond
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:43:44 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

Attending your meeting today as an Urbana resident, I am concerned that it is taking far too long to get to the real issue at hand, the local issue of Aleyah Lewis' violent arrest and the responsibility of the police force for committing that violence against her and entailing the consequent charges. I understand that the police force is a powerful element of the City Government, but exactly because of this they must be held accountable at the absolutely highest standard. I urge the City of Urbana and its police force to push for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped, so that she can resume and repair her young life.

Additionally, and not unrelatedly: though I agree that it is of utmost importance for white people to engage in sustained and critical self-analysis in regards to where they stand in the long and storied history of their investments in racial capitalism, I suggest that this work might better be done in private than in a public meeting. While I understand what may be his motivation for doing so, it is unfair and insensitive for a white, male, member of the City Council to take up so many minutes of the public's time divulging his family history and personal inheritance of prejudices. These are, indeed, no light matter and the floor should be given to residents who are seeking justice in our community, rather than to retraumatizing monologues.

Sincerely,

—lila ann dodge

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
[!City Council](#)
Subject: Statement for 7pm June 1 Urbana City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 11:57:00 AM

Dear Members of the Urbana City Council,

I write as a Champaign-Urbana resident regarding the case of Aleyah Lewis and put my support behind fellow residents calling for all charges against Aleyah to be dropped, and who will continue be attentive to how the city handles continuing proceedings and call for the following:

- 1) That a truly meaningful and independent investigation take place (i.e. that this NOT be done by state police) in the interest of true accountability, total transparency and maintaining trust with the community;
- 2) That the officers who beat Ms. Lewis be put on leave pending the investigation;
- 3) That reform takes place to make the Citizen Police Review Board a means of meaningful oversight and to comply with its ordinance.

These actions are necessary if public office is to maintain any significant role in public life by modeling proper use of the offices and positions each members holds to make informed and intelligent decisions that protect and defend the right of each and every fellow community member---to value each life with respect.

It is critical that members of the council lead by example in the case of Aleyah Lewis. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lilah Leopold

From: [REDACTED]
[City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for City Hall meeting 6.1.2020
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:00:52 PM

To the Urbana City Hall representatives and all assembled:

We can focus our grief and rage around George Floyd's murder into local action: We have a big opportunity to make change right now in local police policy and the citizen police review board.

Prior to recent national events, this push was being made in response to the Good Friday beating by Urbana Police of a young Black woman, which is one more incident in a pattern of violence by Urbana (and Champaign) Police.

As a business owner in Urbana, I stand with the community and SURJ Champaign-Urbana in calling for:

- All charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped
- A truly meaningful and independent investigation
- The officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave pending the investigation
- Reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

We have a moment to leverage real change in our own backyard. Prevent another memorial hashtag where there should have been a life. George Floyd did not deserve to die. Aleyah Lewis did not deserve a brutal beating. Black Lives Matter more than white comfort. Prove that Urbana believes this by talking appropriate action.

Best,

Liana Alcantara

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Urbana City Council Meeting (6/1)
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 11:25:21 AM

Hi there,

In advance of this evening's Urbana City Council meeting, I'm sending along public comments to be read during tonight's public input section. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Logan Middleton

The racist police violence committed toward Aleyah Lewis by the Urbana Police Department on April 10th is all too obviously connected to the state-sanctioned murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. It is—and has for a long time been very clear—that the acts of police brutality we've seen unfold across the country this past week don't just happen "elsewhere"; they take place right here in our home of Champaign-Urbana.

The silence and complicity of the City of Urbana with this racist police violence is unacceptable. That there has been no justice for Aleyah Lewis nearly two months after her assault is unacceptable. Continued violence toward and murder of Black people by the state is unacceptable.

The City of Urbana must (a) drop all charges against Aleyah Lewis now; (b) put the officers who assaulted Aleyah Lewis on leave ASAP; (c) commit to calling for an independent investigation of this incident; and (d) take steps to minimize the impact of policing by defunding and ultimately abolishing the Urbana Police Department.

From: [Logan Middleton](#)
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Urbana City Council Meeting (6/1): A Note on the Meeting's Zoombombing
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:42:02 PM

Dear City Council,

I'm writing as I'm listening to this evening's City of Urbana City Council meeting. About 20 or so minutes in, the remarks of a council member was interrupted by what seemed like a Zoombomb—the person at the other end played an audio loop that repeated the n-word over and over for a few seconds.

I'm very disappointed that the City Council continued to proceed with this meeting uninterrupted without acknowledging this racist intrusion into a space of civic dialogue. It's especially glaring considering that you all are spending the meeting discussing systemic racism, racist police violence, and historical anti-Black sentiments.

How can you all do this work of thinking about these important and vital topics if you can't acknowledge racist acts of violence in your own meeting spaces? Failing to comment on or address these sorts of actions—or at the least taking precautions to password-protect your meetings or ensuring that racist trolls are not permitted to participate—is an act of erasure that's further contributing to the very same anti-Blackness that you have spent the first part of the meeting trying to condemn.

Best,
Logan Middleton

From:

Subject:

Date:

[REDACTED]
Need for Citizen Police Review Board Resources

Monday, June 01, 2020 10:38:33 AM

Hello,

Thanks to the diligent work of many community and civic leaders, the Civilian Police Review Board has endeavored to provide a structure of accountability to support transparent relations between the community and the local police since 2007.

Since that time, however, the Review Board's effectiveness has been limited by a noticeable lack of investigative and disciplinary powers in relation to civilian complaints against the police. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the ability for civilians to access this resource has been significantly hampered due to notary requirements.

As a result of recent incidents of negative interactions between police and the community, i.e. the beating of a young Black woman on Good Friday of this year, as well as the growing nationwide push for increased accountability and trust-building between the police and the communities which they are supposed to be serving, the importance of supporting the work of the CPRB is more urgent than ever.

We have the opportunity to take concrete steps in building the trust and accountability that is absolutely necessary if we are to have any hope of justice and peace in our community.

I urge you to empower the CRPD with greater investigative and disciplinary powers, as was the original intent and remove the arbitrary barriers to the complaint filing process.

Do not miss this is your opportunity to signal your willingness to support these needed institutional reforms. The community needs your help, now. Do not let us down.

Thank you sincerely,

Mark Becker
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: End Police Violence
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:56:03 PM

Esteemed City Council Members,

I am emailing you in support of the "SHOW UP" initiative, and asking you to thoughtfully consider the following demands:

- For all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped
- For a truly meaningful and independent investigation into the "Good Friday Incident"
- For the officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be put on leave, pending the investigation
- For reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance.

Sincerely,

Marshall Shriner

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [!City Council](#)
Date: Commentary for tonight's City COW
Monday, June 01, 2020 1:27:16 PM

City Council Members-

I live about a block south and east of where Ms. Lewis was arrested. The video of the incident was shocking, not just through the violence in both words and actions the police chose to take that day, but also in seeing a familiar park, along with houses and street names. This is my neighborhood, the neighborhood in which my partner and I helped raise his son, and it's the neighborhood we still chose to live in today.

If the unrest since the killing of George Floyd is telling public servants anything, it's that trust between governmental authority and the people is breaking down. My neighborhood needs to know it has a voice and a place in this city. That we aren't seen solely as "problematic" or, as I have unfortunately heard, "dangerous." One good faith action the Urbana City Council can take is immediately reforming the Citizen Police Review Board by giving it meaningful oversight, which is in compliance with the original ordinance.

My family lives here. My neighbors' families live here. And we want to believe our city council and our police force is acting in concert with, rather than in opposition to, it's citizens. Thank you for your time.

Mary King

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: Police Accountability
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 5:46:31 PM

Urbana City Council,

My name is Matt Turino, I live at 403 S. Glover Ave. in Urbana, you are surely aware of the unrest that is resulting from the multitude of police violence in the recent weeks. Our own recent incident while not lethal should be a warning that there are members of our police force that act with impunity and without respect for our citizen's humanity. This kind of cavalier and violent behavior is precisely the kind of behavior that we have seen across the nation that has resulted in injuries and death. If you as our representatives do not take this seriously you have to understand that these injuries and possible future deaths are on your hands. You as the city government officials need to come up with a true system of accountability. IF the police do not uphold the social contract; that laws are applied evenly to all, you cannot expect those who are at the end of those fists or batons to uphold that social contract. It is time that that we do something differently. What is it going to take for city council members to take this seriously? Really, someone being beaten unprovoked should be enough, but as it doesn't seem to be, please be pro-active before someone dies at the hands of a police officer who does not see the humanity of your constituents.

Sincerely

Matthew Turino

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: De-escalation and transparency needed
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:22:28 PM

To the Urbana City Council,

My name is Miriam Larson and I am an Urbana resident. I am writing to express my concern about the use of force against Aleyah Lewis. Furthermore, as we review the incident, it is evident that evaluation and accountability of police in our community is inadequate.

I applaud those individuals on the city council that have called for an independent investigation. I urge all of you to ensure that the investigation is fully independent and that all findings are shared with the public.

As a former elementary school librarian in Champaign schools, I'm shocked by the disregard for de-escalation, review and attention to community relationships by the police. Teachers have access to regular training in de-escalation and teachers who work with the most reactive students are required to take the training. As a teacher, it would have been a given for me to evaluate what happened in a situation that escalated, including examining how I contributed to the situation, and attempt to restore the relationship. While I realize that policing is different from teaching, they both require professionals to manage their own emotions while dealing with conflict and rely on positive community relationships in order to be effective.

Therefore, this incident must be an urgent wake-up call for review of training and policing policy. As the ACLU of Champaign Urbana has called for, the Urbana Police Department "Use of Force" Policy must specifically recommend de-escalation. If de-escalation is not attempted, officers must be their superiors and ultimately by the Chief of Police. Urbana Police must be required to train in de-escalation and have regular reviews on these skills.

Finally, to the city council, you have the authority to review and improve the Civilian Review Board. The Civilian Review Board must allow anyone to submit a complaint, those complaints must reach the members of the civilian review board, they must have adequate training and support to regularly and transparently review and report on complaints, they must have subpoena power, and the police department must be authentically accountable to the citizen review board, including putting officers on administrative live during an investigation.

I am grateful for the care that has been shown by our community to Ms. Lewis through art and advocacy. And I am impressed by the research done by community members and shared here and in community media that will help educate all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miriam Larson
[REDACTED]

--

Miriam Larson, MLS (she/her/hers)

"I don't study to know more but to ignore less" -Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Community member comment for 6/1 council meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 1:23:56 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I write to amplify the message of community members concerned with a "justice system" that enables police locally and nationally to act with impunity in violently targeting Black and Brown people. The Urbana Police Department's assault on Aleyah Lewis is a symptom of this system, as is the red tape surrounding the Citizen Police Review Board and the review process as it is stunted by the police department. I stand with my community in demanding that all charges against Aleyah Lewis be dropped; a truly meaningful and independent investigation be launched; the officers who beat Ms. Lewis be put on leave pending this investigation; and the CPRB be reformed to have meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance so citizens don't have to jump through hoops to report misconduct.

Thank you for your time,
Nicole Turnipseed

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Police Brutality
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 6:10:42 PM
Attachments: [CampaignZero+Policing.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern,

As a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I would like to voice my support for ending police violence. To this end, I support the following policy solutions.

1. Decriminalize or de-prioritize enforcement of crimes that pose no threat to public safety, instead focusing other community-based responses, such as increasing accessibility to mental health providers and substance abuse counselors.
2. Empower community oversight structures.
3. Limit the use of force by police.
4. Independently investigate and prosecute instances of wrongdoing by police.
5. Increase community representation within the police force.
6. Introduce mandatory body cams and have police film interactions.
7. Introduce more training, particularly with respect to de-escalation.
8. End for-profit policing.
9. Demilitarize the police force.
10. Remove barriers to accountability in police union contracts.

Attached you will find a more in-depth explanation of this agenda. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,
Noah Depke

CAMPAIGN ZERO



AN AGENDA TO END POLICE VIOLENCE

Over 1,000 people are killed by police violence each year in America. We can end this violence by implementing research-based policy solutions at every level of government.

This agenda outlines a set of policy solutions that can effectively reduce police violence nationwide. It includes policies that have effectively reduced police shootings and other forms of police violence in places that have implemented them. By scaling up what works we can achieve substantial reductions in police violence nationwide - saving lives and making communities safer.



END BROKEN WINDOWS POLICING

Only 5% of all arrests made in America are for violent crimes. Meanwhile, the vast majority of arrests are for low level offenses that pose no threat to public safety. Police departments should decriminalize or de-prioritize enforcement of these issues. And cities should begin scaling up the role of mental health providers, substance abuse counselors and other community-based responses to these issues that are more effective and that do not risk exposing communities to police violence.

- Decriminalize or de-prioritize enforcement of low-level offenses, including drug possession, public intoxication, loitering, jaywalking, disorderly conduct and prostitution.
- Establish enforceable bans on police racial profiling as well as bans on the use of consent searches, pretext stops and stop-and-frisk. (Examples of these policies include the NYC Racial Profiling ban, NYC Stop-and-Frisk reform, Rhode Island consent search ban)
- Establish alternative responses to mental health crises and issues like homelessness and substance abuse, including by deploying first responder teams of mental health providers and community intervention workers to the scene to handle these issues instead of police officers. (Eugene Oregon "Cahoots" First Responder Program)
- Reduce police budgets in accordance with the reduction in policing that results from ending the enforcement of low-level offenses and redistribute these funds into scaling up community-based alternatives



END FOR-PROFIT POLICING

Police departments should not be allowed to profit from aggressively ticketing, issuing fines, and confiscating property from communities. And when police are sued for misconduct, they should have to bear the burden of paying all financial costs associated with their actions.

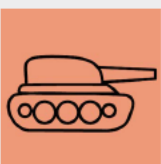
- Establish a cap on the amount of revenue that can be raised through municipal fines and fees. ([Missouri law](#))
- Prohibit police from seizing cash and property from civilians who haven't been convicted of a crime and prohibit police from participating in the federal "Equitable Sharing" program to seize these assets. ([New Mexico law](#))
- Require police departments to pay misconduct settlements from their own budgets, rather than taking this money from programs that support communities.



LIMIT USE OF FORCE

The [research](#) is clear: police departments with more restrictive use of force policies - like banning chokeholds and requiring de-escalation - are substantially less likely to kill people. And more restrictive use of force policies are safer for officers, too. Yet, most police departments still have not adopted these policies and most states still have not passed laws requiring them to.

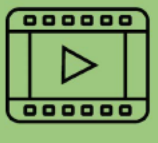
- Restrict deadly force to be authorized only when strictly necessary to protect life after all other reasonable alternatives are exhausted, including the use of de-escalation and non-lethal force techniques. ([Tennessee deadly force law](#); [UN deadly force standard](#))
- Require police departments to report and publish online data on all uses of force, including when they point guns at people, as well as any misconduct complaints and disciplinary consequences resulting from these incidents. ([New York use of force reporting law](#), [Chicago police misconduct complaints dashboard](#))
- Require officers to use de-escalation whenever possible ([Campaign Zero use of force policy](#))
- Ban officers from using chokeholds, strangleholds or any other neck restraints
- Ban officers from shooting at vehicles
- Establish an Early Intervention System that identifies officers with high rates of use of force, racial disparities, and misconduct complaints and intervenes to address these practices up to and including through termination
- Pass legislation creating a police misconduct database and prohibit officers who are fired or resign under investigation for serious misconduct from being rehired ([Connecticut law](#))



DEMILITARIZATION

The federal 1033 program transfers military weapons to police departments, including grenade launchers and tanks. Departments that receive more of these weapons are [more likely](#) to kill

- Prohibit cities and counties from using federal funds to purchase military equipment. At minimum, city council approval should be required prior to obtaining this equipment. ([Montana law](#))
- Prohibit warrantless surveillance, require police to report how they use surveillance tools, and require city council approval prior to purchasing them.



BODY CAMERAS/FILM THE POLICE

Research shows that body cameras do not prevent police violence from happening, but they do increase the chances that officers will be disciplined or even prosecuted for these incidents. Body cam programs need clear policies that ensure they aren't used to surveil marginalized communities.

- Establish policies governing the use of body cameras that ensure public access to footage, prevents storage of non-essential footage, requires officers to record while on-duty, includes specific disciplinary consequences for violations, and prohibits the cameras from being used with biometric scanning and other surveillance technologies. ([ACLU model body camera policy](#))
- Strengthen the right to film the police and provide legal assistance for individuals to sue law enforcement agencies if they take or destroy recording devices. ([Colorado law](#))



INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Only 1% of all killings by police lead to an officer being charged with a crime. And while the federal government has the power to step in and investigate officers and their departments, they lack the resources to do this at the scale needed to change policing outcomes in America.

- Require independent investigations and prosecutions of police officers. ([Connecticut law](#))
- Authorize the state Department of Justice to investigate police departments for a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing and require departments to reform ([California law](#))
- Establish automatic federal and/or state civil rights investigations of all police departments with the highest rates of police violence and the most severe racial disparities in America.
- Pass legislation in Congress making it easier for federal prosecutors to charge officers by removing the requirement that they prove an officer intended to commit civil rights violations.



TRAINING

The average police recruit spends 58 hours learning how to shoot and only 8 hours learning how to de-escalate. Police training needs to be dramatically restructured to emphasize de-escalation and to identify and hold accountable officers who exhibit evidence of racial bias.

- Pass legislation expanding training in police de-escalation, limiting use of force, anti-bias, and crisis intervention. ([Utah law](#), [Maryland law](#)).
- Establish and fund community-led trainings that teach police how to treat communities with dignity and respect.



COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

Research shows that Black officers are more likely to believe in and push for change within police departments and female officers are less likely to engage in misconduct and excessive force than male officers.

- Require police departments to establish clear plans for prioritizing hiring among underrepresented communities. ([Connecticut law](#))



COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

Empowered community oversight structures can play an important role in holding individual officers accountable and pushing for systemic changes within police departments. Yet, nationwide only a few cities have oversight structures with the power to change policing policies or discipline police officers for misconduct.

- Establish empowered community oversight structures to hold police accountable and set police department policy. (San Francisco Charter Policies on [Police Commission](#) and [Office of Citizen Complaints](#))



FAIR POLICE UNION CONTRACTS

Police union contracts and statewide police bill of rights laws make it harder to investigate and hold officers accountable for misconduct. Cities with police union contracts have higher rates of police misconduct complaints and more killings of unarmed people.

- Remove provisions within state police bill of rights laws and local police union contracts that impose [barriers to accountability](#) including provisions that:
 - Disqualify misconduct complaints if investigations take a year or longer to complete
 - Restrict or delay interrogations of officers
 - Give officers the evidence against them and names of their accusers prior to interrogations
 - Limit officer discipline/community oversight or allow police to get reinstated by arbitrators
 - Require cities to give officers paid leave when they commit misconduct or;
 - Erase or otherwise limit public access to police misconduct records. ([Illinois bill](#))

“EMPOWERED COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT STRUCTURES WILL PLAY AN OUTSIZED ROLE IN HOLDING INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE AND PUSHING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGES WITHIN POLICE DEPARTMENTS.”

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: CDGB Funds
Date: Monday, June [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Good Evening,

My name is Orlando Thomas, Owner of Thomas Rentals, LLC. I'm writing in support of the council utilizing CDGB funds to support small businesses. We own multiple properties in South East Urbana on Mitchem and Vawter. Covid-19 has greatly impacted our residents ability to pay rent due to layoffs, businesses closing and many have to prioritize between basic needs such as food versus paying rent. We have maintained our full staff throughout the pandemic. Our property manager has assisted tenants apply for community resources and our maintenance staff have worked to ensure tenants have air conditioning and livable units.

The impact of loss rent has been extremely detrimental to our financial stability. We have applied for all of the programs designed to support small businesses but have not received any support to date. We continue to work with lenders and several have provided modifications but are only temporary solutions. We are working with tenants unable to pay due to loss of employment or other issue but have no recourse for those unwilling to pay due to the "no eviction" order. Our goal is to provide quality affordable housing but will not be able to maintain our standards and staff without proceeds from rent payments or additional assistance from programs designed to support small businesses.

Thanks for your consideration.

Orlando Thomas, Owner

Thomas Rentals, LLC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Public input to be read at city council meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 12:47:20 PM

To the Urbana City Council,

My name is Owen MacDonald, I am a local resident and graduate worker at UIUC. I write to demand you to hold the racist police accountable for the unjust arrest and violence done to Aleyah Lewis. Communities across the country and here locally are rising up in response to the anti-Black police violence inherent to modern day policing that grows directly out of slave-catching patrols of the nineteenth century. The fight against the system that murdered George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, and countless others begins at home.

The city council is in a unique position to do something about this in our local community. The police should be **abolished**. As we work towards that, I implore that all charges against Aleyah Lewis be dropped, the offending officers be fired, and that investigations be done by a non-police third party. Additionally, the CPRB must be given greater power and oversight to make sure cops are held accountable in our community.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: CPRB Review
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 11:18:14 AM

Greetings,

With recent local headlines over Urbana police brutality in the case of Aleyah Lewis, my young people asked "how can we fix this, dad?" I naively replied, "don't worry, there's some sort of city department we can talk with. Would you like to write letters to them?"

We found the Citizen Police Review Board on the City website and started crafting concise, direct concerns and requests -- with good grammar and spelling, I might add.

This proud moment of encouraging participation in local government was cut short as I learned the CPRB has been largely ineffective in its charter to provide residents a way to voice concerns to their police department.

I have full confidence in new CPRB Chair Mikhail Lyubansky, but I'd like to see a full review of CPRB processes so we can make changes and the Board can properly receive and take action on resident concerns, whether they are written in crayon or otherwise.

Respectfully,
Paul Kaiser

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Public Input for 6/1/20
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:06:56 PM
[REDACTED] [UrbanaCityCouncil_6.1.20.docx](#)

Hello,

Attached is a comment I would like to submit for public input for the City Council meeting taking place tonight. Please let me know if there are any issues.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Laurent

REBECCA LAURENT

She/her/hers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rebecca Laurent, Resident of Champaign

It has been a difficult week for this nation to say the least – one that has forced us to open our eyes to the systemic racism and police brutality that so many of us are privileged to turn our back to every day. The difficulty in navigating this fresh grief that we feel at seeing a human being brutally murdered at the hands of the people we trust to protect us is its familiarity. We have watched this happen over and over again to our Black community members. So in this moment where we are once again *seeing* the obvious effect of racism, our challenge is to not turn away and to start seeing ourselves. Our challenge is to look in the mirror and recognize the familiar patterns that weave together Minneapolis and Georgia our community in Champaign-Urbana. We cannot recognize that racism exists without recognizing the role that each of us play in allowing it to.

Urbana is no exception to the microcosm we just saw in Minneapolis. It's past time to look in the mirror. Aleyah Lewis was brutally beaten by Urbana police while the City of Urbana condoned it with a clearly one-sided and grossly misleading press release, echoed by the News Gazette and perpetuated by the Chief of Police. There was absolutely no conceivable reason for these officers to knee and hit Ms. Lewis while she was face down on the ground, in handcuffs, defenseless. The patterns are particularly obvious now, and we refuse to look away.

One bad police officer doesn't murder a Black citizen; they do so with a police department and a city that ignores the warning signs and allows for racial profiling and brutality to go on without repercussion. They do so with a community where racism runs rampant and white people turn away. So you don't get to grieve and forget George Floyd. And you don't get to explain and ignore Aleyah Lewis. None of us do. These are not isolated events, and treating them as such is precisely how the cycle perpetuates. We are done. We are looking in the mirror. And we demand better.

I echo the demands of so many community members who have already expressed disgust at the treatment of Aleyah Lewis.

- Drop all charges against Aleyah Lewis. Stop displacing blame from violent, racist police officers on their survivors. It's childish and embarrassing. And it's racist.
- Conduct a truly meaningful and independent investigation, and put the officers who beat Ms. Lewis on leave pending the investigation. Start prioritizing Black lives over the image of Urbana police. It's childish and embarrassing. And it's racist.
- Reform the Citizen Police Review Board so that it may provide meaningful oversight and comply with its ordinance. Police don't run this community; we do.

This is the moment. You have the power. And we are watching.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public input: Stop police brutality
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 5:44:59 PM

Hello City Council,

I was grateful to meet Shirese Hersey in person today at the protest held by HOODVOTE/ HOODVISION/ HOODVOICE.

Aleyah Lewis is one person in a long list of lives impacted and lost at the hands of destructive police departments. We need to change the entire system. Police need to stop killing Black people. I think we all agree on that. Better community accountability is the most important piece of this. There needs to be community input and conversation, specifically from the Black community. A single step in this direction includes reinvesting in the CPRB, and giving it more power to actually influence police behaviors. Otherwise it is useless.

I also request that city council members make it clear that this kind of behavior is not acceptable. Drop charges against Aleyah. She is the victim here. She is the survivor here. I request that the police involved be fired and prosecuted for what they have done to Aleyah. Also, please ask for the chief of police's resignation.

In the process of investigating the Aleyah Lewis case, please offer public transparency. I hope that throughout the investigation, you can let us know the things you know, the things you don't know, the things you are planning to find out, and the possible changes you are considering in light of this information. That way we (as a community) can remain engaged. This is how we can start to build trust again in this broken system.

Thank you for your time and attention.
-River Andres, PA-C

[REDACTED]
(pronouns: they/them/theirs)

From:


[City Council](#)

Subject:

Urbana City Council Committee of the Whole, June 1, 2020 -- public input

Date:

Monday, June 01, 2020 1:00:44 PM

To the Mayor and Urbana City Council:

The City of Urbana has a problem with accountability and administrative oversight of its police force, and the Aleyah Lewis case has brought this crisis to the surface.

This disconnect -- between elected authority and the authority that is empowered to use deadly force -- is not a new problem. Police are trained on tactics of intimidation, coercion, and fabrication. They are legally empowered to lie in order to get business done. It's not hard to imagine how these tactics might be misused in order to get business done within city government.

A case in point is the People versus Quintin Brown – a case that was dismissed by the state in 2019 for lack of evidence. The reason why the evidence was lacking? Because Urbana police manufactured the results of an eyewitness lineup. The man they were trying to frame would have gone to prison for a mandatory minimum sentence of 21 years.

And who is at the top of the list of the six Urbana police officers named in the pending lawsuit against the City of Urbana for falsifying evidence? Michael Cervantes – the same police officer who tackled Aleyah Lewis on April 10.

What mechanisms are missing from our city government when police misconduct of this magnitude can come and go with no accountability? What sum will the public have to pay out through civil litigation in order for the city to properly review its administrative obligations?

The charges against Aleyah Lewis should be dropped, the officers who assaulted her should be placed on administrative leave pending the results of the independent investigation, and Urbana's Civilian Police Review Board should be overhauled to make it more accessible to, and effective for, the public.

Sincerely,

Rohn Koester


From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Justice and police reform.
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:20:07 PM

Dear Mayor and city council persons,

Urbana is the home of my childhood and my heart. I remember peaceful protests against the Vietnam war. I remember my mom coming home after riding with the police to find out about the canine unit and how impressed she was by the good training and the dogs use to decrease use of guns and bullets. She believed in the Urbana Police. She believed that when individuals made mistakes they could be held accountable.

So to return and to be a homeowner in Urbana, and witness and hear of the violence against Aleyah Lewis. To hear of the boy shot as he climbed through a welcoming window. I am appalled. Heartbroken. Before Mom died she was haunted by Ferguson and the headlines of people of color dying in the streets. She said "we're killing our boys", "we're killing our boys". She had dementia by then, but was still disturbed to her core that our system of justice was so racially unjust. And fatal.

So as an adult child of Bernadine Stake, and I am imploring you to take action to

- 1) increase police accountability
- 2) seek justice for Aleyah Lewis
- 3) and reform our local review board.

Please work towards equal justice for all in Urbana,

Sara Stake

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING (Shamir Brown)
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 4:23:21 PM
Attachments: [cityChampaignUrbana.docx](#)

Hello,

My name is Shamir Brown, and my statement is attached. It is also listed within the body of this email. I want to say thank you for you all allowing us a voice, and hope you take what you read/hear into serious consideration for follow-up action.

Statement:

To the Champaign-Urbana Mayors & Police Chiefs:

(including all C-U admins & city council persons)

I believe you all tired of the unrest that can be seen across the country, and that was on full display here in Champaign- Urbana as the month of May, 2020 came to a close. I understand it can be challenging in your roles as city administrators, as everyday citizens struggle with identifying the proper means to bring their concerns to you, which often results in disjointed requests and follow-up efforts.

Today I want to focus on one specific area of oppression, which was the spark of the nationwide unrest that has impacted us all. This is the issue of police misconduct, brutality, abuse of power, and all things related. I do not want to waste time trying to identify the figures who have the decision-making power to make immediate change in this area. Those individuals are the two respective mayors in Champaign-Urbana (D. Feinen & D. Marlin), and the two respective police chiefs (B. Seraphin & A. Cobb).

A list of some suggested changes can be seen just below.

- Termination for agents of the law who “cross the line” or break certain laws while carrying out their duties.
- Loss of pensions or retirement match-payments for said agents of the law. Including loss of pay for the day in which said agent of the law commits such an infraction.
- No access to in-house or department/city-provided legal aides for said agents of the law, if they are forced to face criminal charges in a court of law.
- Creation of a database listing such “line-crossing”/law-breaking agents, which eliminate them from future consideration from law enforcement jobs (public or private sector). This includes all other states or cities within U.S. borders.
- Increased transparency (within reason) re: all internal investigations of lawpersons

being investigated for “line-crossing”/law-breaking.

While this is not intended to be an exhaustive list, I do believe the people and city administrations would be well-served by putting such changes into effect. These are not laws, but rather directives and initiatives that both Twin City mayors and Police Chiefs can make happen in short order. Due to the recent covid-19 pandemic, everyday people in Champaign-Urbana were able to see just how quickly ordinances and initiatives can be put in place, as we witnessed business closings and mask requirements go into effect in 24-48-hour time periods.

So, when it comes to changes of this nature, it would be nice to see our city government operate with the same sense of urgency. We know a city government, nor the mayors or police chiefs can change things that have already taken place, but surely, they can exercise their power to set a tone that will severely limit the number of rogue agents that surface within our Twin-City police ranks. So please, take actions and move beyond occasional communal dialogue, which rarely if ever bears any tangible fruit.

Thank You,
S. Brown

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: policing
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 9:59:40 AM

Dear Ms. Irish,

Thanks for your note and new perspective, which I will consider. Relatedly, I have long been of the opinion that we should transition from a retributive to a restorative justice system, as pertains in Norway. In that system the police still exist and function, but their actions have a very different ethical and moral context.

Best,
Eric

On Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 9:24 AM Sharon Irish [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mayor, City Council members, Civilian Police Review Board, and the Human Relations office,

First, I hope you are healthy, or as healthy as possible during these very difficult times.

I appreciate the hard work you do, and this message is not intended to drag you down, but rather to offer up some possibilities that I would like to work with you to address.

I believe we have an opportunity now to approach challenges of safety and well-being in Urbana (at least) in alternate ways. I don't imagine changes will come easily or quickly, and I know that some of you have been working toward increasing justice for all for many years. I am most grateful for that.

Fear and distrust--my own included--make these conversations very difficult.

Improving police practices is a step that I imagine has support among you, including working with organizations like [the ACLU](#) to increase police training in de-escalation and monitoring the effectiveness of that training. But, along with many others, I am questioning reform versus abolition of police. I have been going to protests about police militarization, abuse, and violence since the late 1960s. As Dylan Rodriguez noted in 2017, it isn't "police brutality," it is "policing" that is at issue.

I have attached a pdf from the group Critical Resistance (CR) and [a short video](#) from a leader of Critical Resistance, both of which I have found helpful in thinking about different directions for community safety. I agree with most of the recommendations, not all, but given the careful thought that CR has given to these issues, I think their materials are a great starting point for discussion.

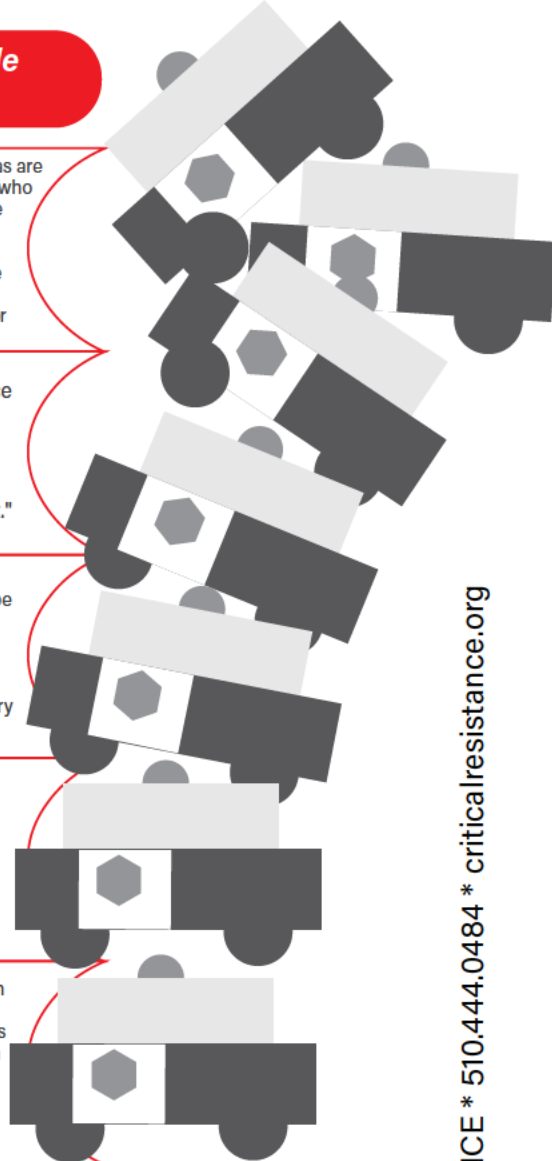
Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon Irish
[REDACTED]

Reformist reforms vs. abolitionist steps in policing

These charts break down the difference between reformist reforms which continue or expand the reach of policing, and abolitionist steps that work to chip away and reduce its overall impact. As we struggle to decrease the power of policing there are also positive and pro-active investments we can make in community health and well-being.

DOES THIS...	reduce funding to police?	challenge the notion that police increase safety?	reduce tools / tactics / technology police have at their disposal?	reduce the scale of policing?
BODY CAMERAS	INCREASES. Equipping police officers with body cameras will require more money going toward police budgets.	NO. Body cameras are pitched as making police more accountable, increasing the idea that policing, done "right," makes people safe.	INCREASES. Body cameras provide the police with another tool, increasing surveillance and increasing police budgets to acquire more gadgets.	INCREASES. Body cameras are based on the idea that police who do not use "excessive force" are less threatening. But police can turn off body cameras and, when used, footage often doesn't have the impact that community members want, or is used for surveillance.
COMMUNITY POLICING	NO. Advocates of community policing argue that departments will have to hire more cops to be in neighborhoods and in the community.	NO. This is based on the belief that policing is focused on keeping people safe, and the violence of policing is caused by a "breakdown of trust" with the community.	INCREASES. Cops are trained in additional tactics and approaches.	NO. More community police means that the scale of policing will increase, particularly in Black, Brown, poor neighborhoods, where there is perceived "mistrust."
MORE TRAINING	NO. More training will require more funding and resources going to police to develop and run trainings.	NO. This furthers the belief that better training would ensure that we can rely on police for safety, and that instances of police harm and violence occur because of lack of training.	INCREASES all of these.	NO. This will increase the scope of policing, given the type of training. For instance, some advocate for police to be trained on how to respond to mental health crises, furthering the idea that police are the go to for every kind of problem.
CIVILIAN REVIEW / OVERSIGHT BOARDS	NO. In some cases, there would be an increase in funding, whereas in other cases, there would be no change.	NO. Overseeing the police through a board presumes that cases of excessive force, killing, lying, planting false information, etc. are exceptional occurrences rather than part of the daily violence of policing.	NO. Some argue for Civilian Review Boards "with teeth," the power to make decisions and take away policing tools and tactics. However, a board with that level of power has never existed despite 50+ years of organizing for them.	NO. This further entrenches policing as a legitimate, reformable system, with a "community" mandate. Some boards, tasked with overseeing them, become structurally invested in their existence.
"JAIL KILLER COPS": PROSECUTE POLICE WHO HAVE KILLED AND ABUSED CIVILIANS.	NO. Prosecuting police does not lead to changes in funding or resourcing police.	NO. Individualizing police violence creates a false distinction between "good police" (who keep us safe), and "bad police" (who are unusual cases), rather than challenging the assumption that policing creates safety or examining policing as systemic violence.	NO. Often, media attention in high profile cases leads to more resources and technology, including body cameras and "training."	NO. This reinforces the prison industrial complex by portraying killer/ corrupt cops as "bad apples" rather than part of a regular system of violence, and reinforces the idea that prosecution and prison serve real justice.



DOES THIS...	reduce funding to police?	challenge the notion that police increase safety?	reduce tools / tactics / technology police have at their disposal?	reduce the scale of policing?
SUSPEND THE USE OF PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR COPS UNDER INVESTIGATION	YES. This can INCREASE community-based budgets as municipalities no longer pay for policing's harm against community members.	YES. It challenges the notion that policing violence, and the administrative costs it incurs, are essential risks of creating "safety."	YES. Access to paid administrative leave lessens the consequences of use of force, and presumes the right of police to use violence at all.	YES. The less financial support for police undergoing investigation for killing and excessive use of force, the less support for policing.
WITHHOLD PENSIONS AND DON'T REHIRE COPS INVOLVED IN EXCESSIVE FORCE	YES. This can INCREASE community-based budgets as municipalities no longer pay for policing's harm against community members.	YES. It challenges the notion that killings and excessive force are exceptions, rather than the rule.	YES. It reduces the ability of police forces to move around or re-engage cops known for their use of violence.	YES.
REQUIRE COPS TO BE LIABLE FOR MISCONDUCT SETTLEMENTS	YES. This can INCREASE community-based budgets as municipalities no longer pay for policing's harm against community members.	YES. It challenges the notion that policing and all its costs are essential components of safety. Community members should not pay for its inevitable violence.	YES. It creates pressure for police to account for their actions, at least financially, and limits legitimacy of policing violence as inevitable.	YES.
CAP OVERTIME ACCRUAL + OT PAY FOR MILITARY EXERCISES	YES. This can INCREASE community-based budgets since we won't have to pay for cops learning how to better make war on our communities.	YES. It challenges the notion that we need police to be trained for "counterterrorism" and other military-style action and surveillance in the guise of increasing "safety."	YES. Weapons trainings and expos are used to scale up policing infrastructure and shape goals for future tools, tactics, technology.	YES. This stops police from increasing their legitimacy, capacity, and skills as "the blue line" in order to expand their reach over our daily lives and community spaces.
WITHDRAW PARTICIPATION IN POLICE MILITARIZATION PROGRAMS	YES. This can INCREASE community-based budgets since we won't have to pay for cops learning how to better make war on our communities.	YES. It challenges the notion that we need police to be trained for "counterterrorism" and other military-style action and surveillance in the guise of increasing "safety."	YES. Weapons trainings and expos are used to scale up policing infrastructure and shape goals for future tools, tactics, technology.	YES. This stops police from increasing their legitimacy, capacity, and skills as "the blue line" in order to expand their reach over our daily lives and community spaces.
PRIORITIZE SPENDING ON COMMUNITY HEALTH, EDUCATION, AFFORDABLE HOUSING	YES. If we decrease funding for policing, this will decrease its resources.	YES. Prioritizing funding resources also creates space to imagine, learn about, and make resources that actually create well-being.	YES. If we decrease funding for policing, this will decrease the expansion of tools and technology.	YES. If we decrease funding for policing, this will decrease the size, scope and capacity of systems of policing.
REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE POLICE FORCE	YES.	YES.	YES.	YES.



From: [REDACTED]
[!City Council](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting Comments
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 12:38:39 PM

Hello,

My name is Aisha Shekara and I am a Senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I recently was made aware of Urbana's racial profiling and aggressive use of force used against an uninvolved young Black youth and a Black woman. Why is the Urbana police department perpetrating racial and gendered violence against members of our Black community? Why are Black people and people of color automatically deemed "suspect" and "threat" because of the color of our skin? Why are you afraid of us? Why are we being systematically oppressed, dehumanized, assaulted, harassed, and murdered? The color of your skin gives you privilege, resources and national attention when something wrong happens in your community. Having a badge does not make you the law, it does not make you superior neither does it give you the right to target and hurt people you view as "the enemy". Stop taking away our humanity, stop arresting us, stop making false claims that we are armed and we are suspects just because of the way we look. We are scared of the way you look and the way you behave when you are around "someone like us". Your aggressive force, Urbana police department, is what causes cultural mistrust between Black and Brown communities, and White police officers. Your actions have directly contributed to the stress, anxiety, fear, and PTSD many Black Americans face in this country due to the systematic racism their family and community has experienced for the past 400 year. City Council, by staying silent you are complacent with this officer's action and are directly contributing to racist. You are racists, get comfortable with those words being linked to you based on your skin color because that is what it feels like for your body, your existence to be racialized. Characteristics and attributes linked to your skin color based on stereotypes, stereotypes that White people created to bring your people down. We demand reparations and the automatic removal of the officer who hit Ms. Lewis, the police officers who tried to alter the police body cam footage, the those who threatened Mr. Gregory Hugger to take down the original video he posted. That's freedom of speech, you forget that the bill of rights apply to our "colored bodies as well". If you think you are the law, then punish the lawless police officers with civil charges because you have evidence an officer punched, taunted, and hurt Ms. Lewis. We all know if she was a White woman named Karen, these actions would've already been executed to protect her. If you care about Black lives you will do what is right and treat us with the same fairness and equality as you treat White people in Urbana. We deserve protection and you have failed us. Prove us wrong and heal this mistrust between the people and police by taking action against those in your police force who use their badge to justify their racism.

#Blacklivesmatter

Aisha Shekara

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:19:20 PM

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.

----- Original message -----

From: "Sophie G. via City of Urbana" <webmaster@city.urbana.il.us>
Date: 6/1/20 4:40 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: ! Citizens' Voice <CitizensVoice@urbanaininois.us>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Monday, June 1, 2020 - 16:40
Submitted by: 98.227.2.125

Submitted values are:

Name: Sophie G.
Email: [REDACTED]
Ward:
Choose an Issue:
Comment: Please drop all charges on Aleyah Lewis immediately.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: On police oversight
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:32:18 AM

On reading about the Aleyah Lewis case it is obvious that there are needs for police reform. Saying "the police did nothing against the law" when citizens are outraged at how they treat people, there is need for change. Police are the ones who are supposed to be trained to help us, deescalate situations; we shouldn't have to have full classes on how to interact with public servants.

A truly meaningful and independent investigation is need in these situations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stevie

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Issue for investigation with respect to Aleyah Lewis" case
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:29:44 PM

First, I am grateful that the City is proceeding with an outside investigation of police interaction with Aleyah Lewis.

I write to ask that the investigation also consider the propriety of the police presentation to the Council on April 27th, in which they were able to present - at length - evidence chosen to incriminate Ms. Lewis and to excuse the behavior of the police - at a time when Ms. Lewis faced serious criminal charges for those same interactions.

What are the legal implications of this? The presentation to Council went into far more detail than a newspaper report would for a more typical case. And Ms. Lewis of course could not respond. Is it possible for Ms. Lewis to receive a fair trial?

The questions related to police behavior on April 10th could at least consider that their decisions must be made on the spot. There is no similar excuse for neglecting to consider what the presentation to Council would mean for an Urbana resident who is to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Thank you.

From:

Subject:

Date:

Police brutality

Monday, June 01, 2020 12:05:16 PM

This is just to remind you that I'm one of many citizens who think Urbana police should maintain high standards and expectations. They should be held to *higher* standards for justifying violence. I have seen our officers calmly de-escalate volatile situations. Those who can't do that should not have the responsibility of the position.

--

Sue J, webmastress

<http://resourceroomblog.wordpress.com>

<http://www.resourceroom.net>

<http://bicycleuc.wordpress.com>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: BLACK LIVES MATTER
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 1:03:36 PM

Hello Urbana City Council members,

With all of the grief and trauma that has happened throughout the past few weeks, in addition to centuries of violence and racism against Black lives, it is imperative that Urbana take action and make changes to its police policy and citizen police review. We, citizens of Urbana, are calling for all charges against Aleyah Lewis to be dropped. We are calling for a meaningful and independent investigation, and for the officers who beat Ms. Lewis to be disciplined appropriately pending the investigation. We are calling for reform to make the Citizen Police Review Board a meaningful oversight, and for the police department to comply with its ordinance.

It is the duty of the city council to protect the members of our community, and enact change to reform corrupt organizations. Please do your part to create meaningful change for the lives of Black folks in our community.

I look forward to seeing the action you take,

Sylvia Maehr, lifelong Urbana resident and current UIUC student

From: [REDACTED]
To: [!City Council](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting Comment
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 8:00:52 PM

Hello,

There is clear evidence of police brutality in the arrest of Aleyah Lewis. The police officers involved should be fired and charged for assault. There need to be real consequences for harming another person, *especially* when the perpetrator is wearing a uniform.

Furthermore, as general suggestion, police officers should be trained first and foremost as social workers instead of as warriors. Their job is to care for the community, not to fight against it.

Best regards,
Taryn Vaughn

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Bill Colbrook's comment about Uniform Peace Officers' Disciplinary Act and notarization
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 8:30:31 PM

Hi Council Members,

I have a question regarding Bill Colbrook's comment supporting James Simon's notary explanation.

I looked up the IL statute that I think Bill Colbrook cited - Uniform Peace Officers' Disciplinary Act, <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=736&ChapterID=11> and found the section that he talked about:

(50 ILCS 725/3.2) (from Ch. 85, par. 2555)

Sec. 3.2. No officer shall be subjected to interrogation without first being informed in writing of the nature of the investigation. If an administrative proceeding is instituted, **the officer shall be informed beforehand of the names of all complainants.** The information shall be sufficient as to reasonably apprise the officer of the nature of the investigation.

(Source: P.A. 83-981.)

However, in the next section, the statute clearly specifies that to verify a complaint, a sworn affidavit is needed. As far as I know, a sworn affidavit does not mean a notary is required.

(50 ILCS 725/3.8) (from Ch. 85, par. 2561)

Sec. 3.8. Admissions; counsel; verified complaint.
(b) **Anyone filing a complaint against a sworn peace officer must have the complaint supported by a sworn affidavit.** Any complaint, having been supported by a sworn affidavit, and having been found, in total or in part, to contain knowingly false material information, shall be presented to the appropriate State's Attorney for a determination of prosecution.

(Source: P.A. 97-472, eff. 8-22-11.)

If Bill Colbrook could clarify his comment, on how the contents of the statute stretches support the notarization requirement, that would be appreciated. If this is not the statute Colbrook cited, please let me know the correct one.

Thanks,
Tracy Chong

From: [REDACTED]
[!City Council](#)
Subject: Comment for June 1 City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:38:31 PM

I'm not from Champaign-Urbana, but after going to school at UIUC and remaining here to live and work, I developed a lot more pride for this city than I had for my own hometown. Unfortunately, that's all gone now, after watching the video of not one, not two, but THREE police officers restrain and use excessive force against Aleyah Lewis on Good Friday 2020 immediately after she said, "I have a question."

How can a city that touts curiosity, innovation, and progress brutally beat a woman for saying, "I have a question"? There was no pause, not a second before officers descended upon her when all she was asking for was discussion. I'm not interested in the officers' side of the story, because it's false. There's no explaining away what that video shows.

If curiosity, innovation, and progress are the guiding principles of Champaign-Urbana, act like it. Drop the charges against Ms. Lewis, and investigate the officers who assaulted her. These barbarians have no business being on the police force; put them on leave, or better yet, fire them since they clearly act on wild instinct rather than reason. The Citizen Police Review Board, which seems to do the opposite of what the name implies, needs to be given meaningful, progressive oversight and comply with its ordinance. Regular citizens are cited for not complying with ordinances; this organization should face the same thing.

This is an opportunity for you, the government we supposedly should be putting our trust in, to make a change and propel Champaign-Urbana forward in true curiosity, innovation, and progress. Give the people of this town something to be proud about.

--

Veronica Severini

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [!City Council](#)
Date: Public Comment for 6/1
Monday, June 01, 2020 5:38:32 PM

Dear Urbana City Council,

My name is Zev Alexander, I'm the Youth Program Coordinator at Uniting Pride, the LGBT Resource Center that serves Champaign County. It's my job to tell LGBTQ youth in the area that they can grow up to live healthy, safe, and vibrant lives. Because of the actions of the Urbana Police department regarding the Aleyah Lewis case, I'm not able to honestly tell Black queer youth that they can trust this city with their lives.

I am frustrated to see that though UPD claims to investigate all citizen complaints, no investigation into Aleyah Lewis's assault has begun. I am writing to ask, on behalf of all the youth growing up in our town, to drop the charges against Ms. Lewis and begin an independent inquiry into the case. It's time for real police accountability in this town.

--

[REDACTED]