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**DATE:** Monday, August 3, 2020  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** \*Held virtually due to Governor's and Mayoral Emergency Orders

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 7:00pm via Zoom.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:** Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Maryalice Wu, Ward 1; Shirese Hursey, Ward 3; Bill Brown, Ward 4; Dennis Roberts, Ward 5; Bill Colbrook, Ward 6; Jared Miller, Ward 7

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Sheila Dodd; Elizabeth Hannan; Stepheny McMahon; Kay Meharry; Carol Mitten; Lorrie Pearson; Bryant Seraphin; James Simon; Scott Tess

**OTHERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:** *Public comment:* Brianna Lewis; Meghan McDonald; Christopher Hansen; Tracy Chong; Aiden Watson Morris; Julie Watkins; Ben Joselyn; Giovanna; Ameena Payne; Sarah Nixon; Karen Medina; Karen Esposito; Kate Popetz; Marya Ornelas

1. [Call to Order and Roll Call](#)

With a quorum present, Chair Bill Brown called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:22pm, following a special City Council meeting.

2. [Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting](#)

CM Roberts mad a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2020 meeting. Motion seconded by CM Wu and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Wu, Hursey, Brown, Roberts Colbrook, Miller

No: None

3. **Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

4. [Public Input and Presentations](#)

*Public Input via Zoom:*

Public input via Zoom was provided by the following: Brianna Lewis; Meghan McDonald; Christopher Hansen; Tracy Chong; Aiden Watson Morris; Julie Watkins; Ben Joselyn; Giovanna; Ameena Payne; Sarah Nixon; Karen Medina; Karen Esposito; Kate Popetz; Marya Ornelas. Comments included: drop charges against Aleyah Lewis; free the 27 protesters; intimidation of students by School Resource Officer; do away with SRO in Urbana schools; city needs more transparency; 2% decrease in police funding not enough; glad to see council members involved in making changes in community; stop disparity in traffic stops.

*Public Input via email*

Public input was provided by email from the following: Jon Hays; Durl Kruse; Megan Mericle; Urbana Resident; Grace Walworth. Comments included: seek counsel of experts regarding defunding of police; defund and abolish police; do not sacrifice public safety by replacing

police with social workers; drop charges against Aleyah Lewis and 27 protesters; reduce police funding; county probation office giving citizenship status information to ICE.

## 5 Staff Report

### a. [CDBG-CV Programs Update](#)

Grants Manager Sheila Dodd presented a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Covid programs update. Ms. Dodd reported that the City of Urbana received \$294,600 in CDBG Covid funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES). The City must follow Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements for use of the funds. The two programs adopted by City Council for use of these funds were the Small Business Grant Program and the Housing Assistance program. She explained the process of awarding the grants for businesses and housing.

Ms. Dodd said the Covid-19 Manual adopted by Council, allows the use of HOME funds for rent assistance and that staff will bring a request to council in August to reallocate unexpended prior year funds for rental assistance. She answered questions and concerns from council members. Discussion ensued.

Police Chief Bryant Seraphin provided information regarding a protest that was held on University Avenue and Lincoln Avenue that took place on June 23, 2020. There were calls about an older female in a car who was trying to go around protesters and the vehicle came into contact with a couple of 18 year old protesters. The car was going very slowly and both protesters denied injuries. He added there were also complaints about police officers responding at the protest not wearing masks. Five out of six officers did have masks on and one did not. He was given a mask by one of the protesters.

Chief Seraphin said the slides from the body cam presentation done on July 13, 2020 are posted on the website with meeting information for that date.

### 6. [Resolution No. 2020-08-034R](#): A Resolution Approving a Champaign-Urbana Solid Waste Disposal System Agreement

Environmental Sustainability Manager Scott Tess presented this resolution. He informed council members that this is a renewal and extension of an agreement with Champaign for a portion of a closed landfill, called the Champaign Urbana Solid Waste Disposal System. The extended agreement will end on June 30, 2040. Mr. Tess responded to questions and concerns from council members.

CM Wu moved to send Resolution No. 2020-08-034R to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Roberts and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

### 7. [Resolution No. 2020-08-035R](#): A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Grant for Market at the Square (Farm Credit Illinois Grant - Snap Double Value Program - 2020)

Economic Development Coordinator Stepheny McMahon presented this resolution. She said this is from Farm Credit Illinois and is a \$5,000 grant. It broadens the selection of food items that can be purchased at the market.

CM Roberts moved to send Resolution No. 2020-08-035R to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Miller and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

8. **Resolution No. 2020-08-036R**: A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to a Subgrantee Agreement for a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (Courage Connection TBRA FY 2017-2018 No. 1718-CC01)

Grants Manager Sheila Dodd presented this resolution. She informed council members that this would extend the terms of the agreement by adding an additional 18 months to allow Courage Connection to continue its Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program (TBRA). This would help ten households with rental assistance. It would not involve any additional funds, and would further the goal of helping provide affordable housing in general, and to special populations which would include those with mental disabilities. Ms. Dodd responded to questions and concerns from council members.

CM Wu moved to send Resolution No. 2020-08-036R to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Hursey and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

9. **Resolution No. 2020-08-037R**: A Resolution Accepting a “Tornado Trees” for Tree Town Grant from Rotary Club of Urbana

Mayor Marlin presented this resolution. She told council members this grant will help cover the cost of replacing some of the 64 trees destroyed by an F-1 tornado that struck Urbana in May 2019.

CM Miller made a motion to send Resolution No. 2020-08-037R to council with recommendation for approval. Motion seconded by CM Colbrook and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

10. **Ordinance No. 2020-08-041**: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #1 - Omnibus)

Finance Director Elizabeth Hannan presented this ordinance. She said the most significant part of the amendment is the increase in the Human Relations Officer position, which will go from part-time to full-time. There will also be an increase of \$10,000 in the legal services line in Human Relations to help pay for a hearing officer for appeals of police complaints and another \$10,000 increase for recruitment of the position.

Other revisions include addition of a temporary position in the Finance department, a donation to the Fire department and various rebudgeted amounts.

Ms. Hannan responded to questions from council members and discussion ensued.

CM Roberts moved to send Ordinance No. 2020-08-041 to council with recommendation of approval. Motion seconded by CM Colbrook and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Brown, Colbrook, Hursey, Miller, Roberts, Wu

Nay: None

11. **Discussion** - Public Safety and Policing - Next Steps Follow-Up

Mayor Marlin began the discussion by saying there is a need for an evaluation of a different approach to public safety. She talked about the formation of an advisory committee to work on the approach. She said in the coming year the focus will be on reallocation of resources and what roles police should continue, look at use of force policy, and alternative models for civilian oversight and accountability. She reminded council that in two weeks there will be a One Door discussion, which concerns responding to calls for mental health.

City Administrator Carol Mitten added that staff is looking at ways to engage public in broad

areas such as safe communities.

There was extensive discussion about the advisory committee and topics of conversation for future meetings concerning police.

**12. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the council, Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:02pm.

Kay Meharry  
Assistant City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is [viewable on-demand](#).

Minutes Approved: August 17, 2020

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT: 08/03/2020  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2020 1:57:41 PM

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City Council, Mayor Marlin

Please, call on Julia Reitz to drop all charges against Aleyah Lewis and the 27 protestors.

I want to remind the mayor and council members how many people are calling for defunding of the police. There has been an unfortunate sense that the council might be perceiving this movement as only a few handfuls of people, but obviously one hour's time for calling in cannot represent a wider public.

Consider the open letter to UIUC calling for the university to divest from local policing.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1opMQ0EnjEHGDT2wJUUs2iBQiPtVSQYojKC8ZfqC2mXs/edit>

Over 1,600 individuals have signed on to the letter, many of whom are currently doing graduate studies in a very wide selection of fields and disciplines. Professors have signed it as well. And of course, many of these same students and professors do daily research and study that is highly relevant to matters of policing. In other words, these scholars represent large bodies of knowledge, that span across many fields and back through decades and even centuries of knowledge. This knowledge is our greatest resource, and further, it is being actively offered up to city council, on a weekly basis. But is this knowledge being sought?

I watched all of Illinois Newsroom's event on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, "What Should be the Role of Police in Champaign-Urbana". In it, Mayor Marlin stated that she is speaking to police officers one-on-one regarding this issue, but I have to ask; is Mayor Marlin seeking out one-on-one conversations with the scholars and activists calling for defunding of police? Dr. Naomi Paik, Professor Evelyn Reynolds and Ph.D candidate Tariq Khan, all of whom spoke at the same Illinois Newsroom event, could offer so much more information in an extended and individual dialogue. In the televised event itself, they offered wonderful ideas that were grounded in historical analysis and offered up alternatives. However, these and other experts are not being consulted. And if Marlin, and the rest of the council won't seek out further knowledge, then the entire conversation between the public and the city is unequitable. 3 minutes is not enough time to make truly compelling arguments, and pitted against that the police are being given infinitely more deference. At the end of the day, the prerogative of the police, individually and as an institution, is to preserve themselves. We cannot expect anything from police but the most paltry of reforms, and what they offer will in turn be further curtailed by the FOP. All the people advocating for police divestment are warning you that reform does not work.

Why does reform not work? Why does increased policing lead to the same or even higher rates of crime? Why does a justice system that purports to be colorblind still target Black people so disproportionately that in Champaign county Black people comprise over 50% of the county jail population even though they make up only about 13% of the same counties population? I could, and will, spend the following weeks and months writing and calling to city council about these questions and so many more, with all the eloquence I am capable of, but what will it matter if city council won't seek this knowledge themselves? It is available, and I am begging you all to demonstrate your own research, and to not continue the pattern I've observed over the last couple months, in which public input, in some form or other, is disregarded and condescended to. The presentation at last weeks city council meeting regarding the future of policing was insulting. The presentation about FOIA the week before was another insult to people burdened by legitimate problems. Time wasted, that could surely have been better spent. By continuing to slough off the public's input to defund the police, via tactics of delay, and condescending assumptions that we simply don't understand certain details, I can only anticipate that the relationship of the public to the city will only grow to become more adversarial. But this sense of hostility absolutely exists on the city side as well. What do we do? Please, proactively seek out the counsel of academic experts regarding our continuing conversation about defunding.

Jon Hays

Champaign resident

Good Evening Mayor and City Council,

I find it interesting that you are voting tonight on a resolution entitled: "*Social Equity and Justice in Urbana's Sustainability Framework*". It seems like an appropriate and timely resolution for you to support.

But, I must ask you why you haven't considered a similar council resolution to reduce traffic stop racial disparities. The approved 2018 – 2021 Council and Mayor priorities list "*Priority #3 – Achieve equity in traffic stops.....*" as one of six priorities ( see attachment below). It seems racial equity in traffic stops is just as or even more important as sustainability equity.

Therefore I ask you to act on your list of highest priorities and vote during agenda item "Policing – Next Steps" tonight to begin the process of developing a suitable, necessary, and long overdue council resolution regarding traffic stop racial disparities (a draft resolution attached below). Possibly titling it: "*Policing Changes To Improve Equity In Traffic Stop Practices And Tactics*".

Now to address the upcoming 2019 Annual Traffic Stop Report.

It is time to ask for the inclusion in the 2019 Report the following changes and additions. These changes should be requested of the UPD tonight so they are alerted in a timely manner and so you are assured they will be incorporated into the upcoming report.

1. "Section 2 – Benchmarks" must include a thorough explanation of the new method the State used to produce Urbana's 2019 Traffic Report. Since a totally new method is used, it is worthy of public discussion and knowledge. The UPD report should include the state's findings for Urbana. UPD opinions or preferences should play no role in factually reporting this state data to the public.
2. Direct the UPD to stop using "all drivers" (ticketed and non-ticketed) in accidents to determine the local ratio. Nowhere has this criterion been recommended as a reliable statistical method to determine the racial make-up of the driving public. The UPD must use only **not-at-fault accident data**, namely the race of the "non-ticketed" driver to maintain the randomness and integrity of the mathematical process. The UPD seems to have picked the "all driver" method with no documented support or proof that it is reliable. This method seems to statistically make it look as if progress in reducing racial disparities is being made when it is actually not. If the UPD believes this approach is mathematically sound, ask for the evidence that confirms it! Sections 2 and 2.1 in the 2019 Report should reflect the above method change and resulting data updates.
3. On page 13 of the April 1, 2018 Report it stated: *As of January 1, 2018, tickets that indicate questioning beyond the scope of the traffic stop now denote this in the electronic record. This data will be presented at the City Council meeting on April 22, 2019.* I am not aware of the UPD keeping its commitment to reporting on April 22, 2019, am I wrong? If not, closer monitoring and vigilance is clearly needed by the council. Be sure that the UPD follows through by adding this new data in its next report, because it goes to the heart of the nature of pretextual stops.
4. Finally, I encourage you to require the UPD to add more detailed information regarding RESIDENCY and stops, namely to include race percentages (see attachment). This data provides some interesting insights into how local and non-local residents are stopped differently by race. How is it that local blacks are stopped 16% higher than local whites and more than non-resident blacks? Residency data is enlightening and warrants much more discussion.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Durl Kruse

## CITY OF URBANA CITY COUNCIL and MAYOR PRIORITIES 2018-2021

The Urbana City Council and Mayoral Priorities for 2018-2021 will be as listed below.

- Priority #1

With consideration of the downtown as a whole, initiate and plan for transformation of the Lincoln Square site into a destination.

- Priority #2

Increase minority participation in city procurement, hiring and contracting and work with the Human Relations Commission to develop a system to incentivize and advocate for equity and increased minority employment rates.

- ✓ Goal – 20% minority participation in city procurement, hiring and contracting.
- ✓ Goal – increase minority employment rate 1% / year for the next three years.

- Priority #3

Achieve equity in traffic stops and reduce the disparate impact of court costs and fines on lower income people.

- Priority #4

Expand connectivity of Kickapoo Rail Trail with a focus between Vine Street and Lincoln Avenue and plan for the Boneyard Creek Multiuse Path.

- Priority #5

Invest in, and repurpose, older housing stock.

- Priority #6

Make SE Urbana an economic priority, with an emphasis on the Philo Road Business District.

### RESOLUTION NO.

### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING POLICING CHANGES TO IMPROVE EQUITY IN TRAFFIC STOP PRACTICES AND TACTICS

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana ("City") is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, and the passage of this Resolution constitutes an exercise of the City's home rule powers and functions as granted in the Illinois Constitution, 1970; and

**WHERE AS**, the State of Illinois passed legislation sponsored by then State Sen. Barack Obama to require law enforcement agencies to annually report traffic stop data to inform communities of any racial disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana is the local governing body responsible for ensuring that all citizens are policed fairly and equitably; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States guarantees equal protection for all citizens under the law regardless of race; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana supervises and oversees the police department and can set community standards for policing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urbana Police Department is charged with protecting and serving all citizens of Urbana; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urbana Police Department has reported traffic stop racial disparities negatively affecting African-American drivers for sixteen consecutive years (2004-2019); and

**WHEREAS**, the racial behavior and the effects of implicit bias on police conduct can overtime become institutionalized and normalized; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana has studied, reviewed, and implemented changes related to traffic stop disparities with little effect in eradicating racial disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, the persistent yearly racial disparities have had a negative financial, social, and psychological affect on Urbana's African-American community; and

**WHEREAS**, the scholarly research has documented the negative impact that ongoing racial disparities in traffic stops have on police/community relations and minority trust of police; and

**WHEREAS**, the discretion of the police officer is the primary factor influencing the initiation of a traffic stop; and

**WHEREAS**, racial injustice, prejudice and discrimination are anathema to Urbana's core values.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council, of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

**SECTION ONE:**

The Urbana Police Department will review traffic stop policies, procedures, and practices to implement street level changes necessary to eliminate African-American traffic stop racial disparities by the end of 2021.

**SECTION TWO:**

The Urbana Police Department will stop using pretextual or investigatory stops as a reason for initiating a traffic stop; unless there is clear evidence that criminal activity is occurring.

**SECTION THREE:**

The Urbana Police Department will delink traffic law enforcement from other types of police activity, e.g. calls for service or hot spot policing.

**SECTION FOUR:**

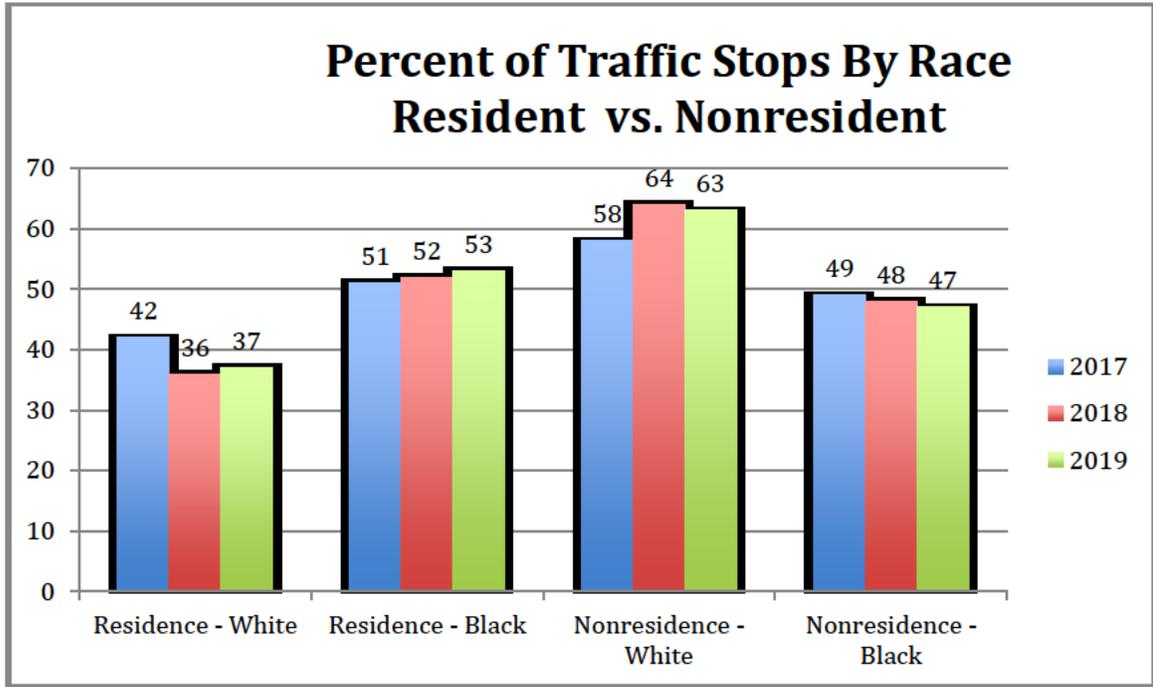
The Urbana Police Department will monitor individual officer amount of time and specific locations conducting traffic stops to avoid inadvertently over-policing black drivers.

**SECTION FIVE:**

The Civilian Police Review Board will be given the responsibility of reviewing annual traffic stop data reported by the Urbana Police Department, to make recommendations, and of reporting their findings annually to the City Council.

**SECTION SIX:**

The Civilian Police Review Board may request from the Urbana Police Department any other information or data relevant to traffic stops if it is available and retrievable.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT 8/3: On Public Relations and Budget Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2020 3:59:16 PM

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Dear City Council members and Mayor Marlin,

My name is Megan Mericle, and I am a resident of Champaign and member of the Graduate Employee Organization. First, I want to respond to today's budget amendment. Though you will likely argue that the proposed police funds are "necessary" to meet state training requirements and are a result of COVID-19 disruptions, not "new" funding, it is still an allocation of additional funds to police. If these funds are necessary, I urge you to propose an equal or greater cut to the police budget in another area. You might argue that \$5,250 is a small amount, but it sets the City Council down a path of gradually chipping away at the progress of the \$120,000 budget reduction, and communicates a commitment to increase police funding rather than defund the police. That \$5,250 could instead be used to aid people experiencing food insecurity, pending evictions, and health problems.

In addition, today I wanted to speak to a pattern of communication that I've noticed in City Council meetings. Members of the community have called in for months now to advocate for the defunding of the police, as well as the dropping of the charges against Aleyah Lewis and the 27 protestors. In the 3 short minutes that they are given to speak, they have brought up interconnections between their concerns and issues of school-to-prison pipelines, police brutality, FOIA concerns, mental health, evictions, and structural racism as a whole.

City Council's general pattern of response has operated from a deficit model that assumes that community members lack needed information, or that they are uneducated about the issues they advocate for. The FOIA presentation was an example of this, in which city staff took hours to explain the fees and appeals process that community members are speaking out against. Most strikingly, Mayor Marlin took up a large portion of last week's meeting to outline what the city has supposedly done in relation to policing.

I want to break down some of the points that Mayor Marlin raised:

1. One Door: Addressing mental health concerns is certainly an important goal, but I want to reiterate that One Door will only perpetuate existing police brutality *unless it exists outside the system of policing*. One Door should be an entirely separate system that residents can call without fear of police showing up to escalate the situation through trauma, arrest and violence, and it should not be dependent on police determining who should be directed to the One Door program, as they ultimately do not have the mental health expertise that is necessary. Anything else will only perpetuate the criminalization and incarceration of those with mental health concerns. Also, I was struck by the disingenuity here when One Door was cited as something that the city council "has done" when it hasn't even reached the proposal stage.
2. Human Relations Officer: While it's important to examine the language we use to describe administrative positions, and how that language then comes to define those roles, Mayor Marlin stated explicitly that this language shift would not change the job description in any way. It is a cosmetic change that appears to be listed here to strengthen the claim that the city is Doing Something, but does not reflect a systemic change, thus reinforcing the concerns that community members have raised about surface-level change used to pacify dissent.
3. Ten Shared Principles: Others have raised important concerns about the Ten Shared Principles in the past, so I'll just briefly say that the Ten Shared Principles outlines a set of what should be common-sense values, but does not require police departments to commit to a clear step forward. The only clear action item is de-escalation training, which is already required by the state, though no minimum hours are set. It is concerningly individualistic and vague, as police officers could claim to "consider life to be the highest value," while still participating in a system of policing that devalues marginalized people. Did the UPD treat life as "the highest value" when they body-slammed Aleyah Lewis during her arrest? A poster hung on the wall in the police station will not address the institutional issue of police brutality. Police brutality is a persistent generational issue that cannot be waved away through PR language and empty calls of "unity." We need to bring an end to the system of policing, and the 10 Shared Principles don't even go as far as to suggest reforms.

When community members call for change in existing systems, and councilmembers respond by spending hours patronizingly explaining why existing systems prevent them from making such changes, I think you can understand how that would lead to frustration. You cannot claim to be enacting systemic change if you consistently use existing systems as a defense for inaction, or slowness. Last week councilmembers and the mayor used the term "structural change" to mean "permanent change," suggesting that One Door would be structural if it existed for 10 years. But real structural change is not just long-lasting programmatic change that's tacked on to existing systems. You have to start asking the hard questions about how your positions of power enable you to change these systems, and why you

default to perpetuating those systems in your communications with the public rather than acknowledging the inequity at the heart of city governance.

Ultimately, calls for change to the system will not be answered by explanations of business as usual. Your actions will only further the divide between your office and members of the community, undermining the community dialogues that you state are a central goal. When answers to community concerns and directions forward are deferred week after week and month after month, they start to look less like lack of preparation and more like active obstruction.

Defund the police. Abolish the police.

Thank you for your time.  
Megan Mericle



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Mayor Diane Marlin and Urbana City Council  
Urbana City Building  
400 South Vine Street  
61801 Urbana , IL

July 29, 2020

Dear Mayor Marlin and City Council members:

A fundamental mission of City of Urbana government is to provide public safety for city residents. Most residents of Urbana just want to go about their daily lives feeling protected from those who would prey upon them. Residents want assurance of safety from intruders or stray bullets entering their homes and safety when traveling the streets of this town.

All who viewed the death of George Floyd were outraged and correctly want safeguards against that kind of criminal behavior on the part of law enforcement officers. Those who intentionally act to cause harm to suspects must face consequences. Fortunately, such extreme instances of police abuse are rare, though very widely publicized and protested. All suspects are entitled to equal and professional treatment.

Police departments require citizen oversight and ongoing training to maintain professionalism. An effective police department needs to monitor the emotional stability and behavior of the armed officers who daily risk their lives doing their job. Law enforcement officers are subject to the effects of daily traumatic stress and hardening of heart that come from constant immersion in volatile and dangerous situations.

We ask a lot of our Urbana law enforcement officers and almost all of them, almost all of the time, perform with a high level of professionalism. Police officers are human, and human beings are fallible. When a suspect resists being taken into custody there is risk of injury during that struggle. Body cameras are a useful tool in monitoring police behavior as well as suspect behavior.

In addition to receiving necessary community oversight, the officers who intervene in dangerous situations on our behalf need community support to effectively do their job. Lack of support of law enforcement officers undermines their effective functioning and increases risks to all.

Illinois community mental health, social work, and substance abuse treatment funding is inadequate. Services to the community are sometimes difficult to access. Social services need to be expanded and made more accessible, but not by sacrificing public safety. Social service providers can accomplish much good in helping individuals who accept help. Providers cannot assure that the mentally ill take their medication to maintain stability, cannot assure that substance abusers stay clean and sober, and cannot respond to active gun violence. Social workers cannot replace police in a law enforcement role.

Urbana has long been a liberal community supporting equity, fairness, and care for our fellow residents. Now an outspoken crowd is promoting more radical ideology. They loudly and persistently claim to represent the interests of all Urbana residents and call for the Urbana Police Department to be disbanded. They do not represent the interests of most residents. They represent their own ideological interests and see the current situation as an opportunity. Their leadership is organized and persistent, and their message is loud.

I am writing this letter anonymously because I fear consequences for voicing disagreement with the anti-police contingent. Many other Urbana residents remain silent due to fear of retaliation. Please do not abandon those of us who do not show up to shout. Please do not let the loud crowd dominate public safety decisions. Do not abandon the core City of Urbana value and mission to provide public safety for residents. Do not undermine our police. We need them today more than ever.

***Urbana Resident***

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for City council meeting 8/3/20  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2020 5:57:53 PM

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To the Urbana City Council,

My name is Grace Wilken and I am an Urbana resident. I am contacting you as a concerned citizen about the following issues:

- I ask that you keep an open mind and compassionate heart when considering issues that impact our community.
- I ask that you contact Julia Reitz to request that the charges be dropped against Aleyah Lewis and the 27 protestors.
  - The incidents of police interaction with Aleyah Lewis and protestors, though very distinct, are both examples of abuse of power and oppressive racism in our "justice" system.
- Please reconsider how our tax dollars are distributed. I request that we seriously reduce funding to the police department and instead use those funds to build healthy, resilient, inclusive, and peaceful communities.
- I ask that you request the county probation office to stop voluntarily giving citizenship status information to ICE.
  - I did not follow-up yet on my last public comment including ICE interaction with the Urbana Police. I correct my previous statement; the Urbana police are not cooperating with ICE. However, they are not enforcing jurisdiction with ICE because the local police are not notified of ICE activity. This has resulted in people being taken into ICE custody while the local police and the family are looking for a missing person.
  - However, the county probation office is voluntarily giving citizenship status information to ICE, which has resulted in persons being taken into custody after leaving the courthouse.
- Again, I ask that you truly listen to our public input with an open mind and make decisions that will benefit the communities that you represent and serve.

Thank you,  
Grace Wilken

## **Urbana Businesses Request Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) Video Gaming Terminal**

August 3, 2020

City of Urbana  
400 South Vine Street  
Urbana, IL 61802

**RE: Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) Video Gaming Terminal Request**

Honorable Mayor Marlin and the Honorable Council,

Thank you allowing us to request, via the electronic City Council meeting on Jul 27<sup>th</sup>, the consideration of a sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminal for Licensed Establishments in the City of Urbana.

As per the comments, all stakeholders benefit from the addition of a sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminal in terms of revenue generation. The City of Urbana and the State of Illinois benefit via increased tax and fee revenue, as displayed below.

Urbana, we believe, would see an increase in the following estimated revenue streams:\*

- \$20,520 in annual machine fees; and
- \$70,000 in annual new incremental tax revenue, approximately a 20% increase, based on actual results in markets which allow six (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminals.

As retailers, it is critical to our long-term stability that we secure new and preserve existing sources of revenue. The allowance of one additional VGT is one option immediately available with your support. It is worth noting that neighboring communities have already allowed for their licensed establishment to add the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminal without issue.

As part of the change to the Video Gaming Act that was passed in June of 2019, the State provided for the allowance of a sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminal to help offset two increases in the tax rate (an increase of 14% in total) imposed on earnings from Video Gaming, both of which have already been implemented. Coupled with continuing increased minimum wage rates, on top of a large decline in patronage due to the pandemic, we need your support to allow for this additional revenue stream.

Much like government, very rarely do our annual expenses ever go down. The addition of the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminal and the corresponding revenue will help us recover after the recent COVID shut down. As an industry, our companies generated ZERO dollars in video gaming revenue from March 16<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>; a time period of over 14 weeks with NO revenue generation from that side of the business, while also producing severely reduced revenue from food and beverage sales during that same time period.

We, collectively or individually, are pleased to meet with you, City Staff and/or make a presentation at any upcoming public meeting to address and answer questions related to this request. We respectfully request that you allow for the addition of a sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) video gaming terminal in our respective establishments as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to working with the City of Urbana on this opportunity.

## Urbana Businesses Request Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) Video Gaming Terminal

Sincerely submitted by the following Urbana businesses:

<b>Mike Thiessen, Partner</b> <b>Blackhawk Restaurant Group, LLC-DBA Emma's</b>	<b>Keith Rentschler, Owner / Partner</b> <b>Trident Partners-DBA Ruby's</b>
<b>Alex Plocher, President</b> <b>Hot Spot Restaurant, LLC</b>	<b>Amery Gardner, Director of Operations</b> <b>SOILL Restaurant Systems, LLC-DBA Dotty's</b>
<b>Ben Manns and Frank Fonte</b> <b>Bunny's of Urbana, Inc.-DBA Bunny's Tavern</b>	<b>Chanthaluxay and Vilayphone Keodara</b> <b>Bangkok, Inc. Two-DBA Bangkok Thai Restaurant</b>
<b>John Maggio</b> <b>Busey-Fletcher-Stillwell Post 630 Veterans of Foreign</b> <b>War-DBA VFW Post 630</b>	<b>John Cain and Kurt Kiser</b> <b>Northgate Gaming, Inc.-DBA Lucky Lukes</b>
<b>Chris Shipman</b> <b>Shipwreck Gaming, LLC-DBA Lucky's Lounge</b>	<b>Craig Minor</b> <b>Mala, LLC-DBA Lindy Lu's Place</b>
<b>Chris Saunders and Jordan Drahota</b> <b>Premier Entertainment of Illinois, LLC DBA-Flamingo Slots</b>	<b>Arlan Goldberg</b> <b>Downtown Creations, LLC-DBA Blackbird</b>
<b>Edward Salfelder</b> <b>Keagle Incorporated-DBA The Silver Bullet</b>	<b>Christy Grassman and Thomas Grassman</b> <b>TC Grassman, LLC-DBA Boomerang's Bar and Grill</b>
<b>Martin Fuentes</b> <b>El Toro, Inc.-DBA Toro Loco</b>	<b>Bruce Brown, Commander</b> <b>American Legion Post 71</b>

\*Estimates assume 19 of the existing 22 establishments opt for the additional sixth video gaming terminal and Urbana's 2019 tax VGT revenue of approximately \$357,000