

City of Cincinnati



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Betsy Sundermann

Cincinnati City Councilmember

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MOTION

WE MOVE that in the upcoming renegotiation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the funding to the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) not be reduced by the Administration.


Betsy Sundermann

STATEMENT

The CPD has been one of the leading police departments in the country in adapting and adopting practices to best suit the needs of the communities it serves. The Collaborative Agreement (CA) and the community policing policies they have adapted have led to a decrease in crime rates throughout the city, and in fact the city had consecutive years of the lowest violent crime rates on record in 2018 and 2019 (per Law and Safety Committee Violent Crime Update January 1 – July 31, 2020, presented by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Neudigate). According to the RAND Corporation (2007) and the 8 Can't Wait project by Zero Campaign (2020), both independent organizations, CPD has been achieving the goal of minimalizing racial bias in policing is a perfect 8/8 on policies designed to "reduce killings and save lives", with only Denver, St. Louis, San Francisco achieving those same goals.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has set in, CPD needs their resources and funding more than ever. Having had to quickly adapt to the new circumstances and rapidly implement innovative procedures to effectively police throughout the duration of the pandemic, as well as maintain safety as best as possible for the city and its citizens during the riots, now is certainly not the time to be cutting back on their funding.

The CPD has, for the last 19 years, shown time and time again their commitment to transparency, cooperation with communities, and fair policing and those results have been independently tested and verified. Barring the unpredictable COVID-19 outbreak and a year that has seen increased violence across the country and particularly in Cincinnati, there had been a clear and caused decline in violence in our city. Voting yes is supporting the efforts of our city police to make our communities demonstrably safer and shows our commitment to supporting these downward trends they have instigated.