

To the City of Geneva City Council,

On August 16, 2020, the Geneva City Police Officers, Council 82, Local 3471, was provided three recent proposals created by the City Council and asked for feedback as a stakeholder in a process seeking police reform. The following constitutes Local 3471's feedback:

The first proposal (Review Item #1) is Geneva Local Law 2-2020. Not only is Local Law 2-2020 both shocking and appalling, it is also a scheme that can only be likened to the measures that were taken by the Nazis in Germany in the last century. Of significant note is the unfettered authority Local Law 2-2020 would give nine totally unqualified civilians to investigate, try, and condemn any police officer in the Geneva Police Department based on nothing more than "information and belief." On its face, Local Law 2-2020 violates the City Charter, the Civil Service Law and our collective bargaining agreement with the City of Geneva. Local Law 2-2020 cannot be and will not be supported by Local 3471 in its current form.

The second proposal (Review Item #2) is the Draft City of Geneva Police Department Body Camera Policy Task Force By-Laws. While Local 3471 agrees that our use of body cameras should be consistent with national standards, we cannot support the task force if it will result in body camera footage being viewed by, shared or released to the public beyond what is currently required by law "as a source of information for interested community members to foster a deeper understanding of the Geneva Police Department." Local 3471 has no idea what it means for this task force to be a "source of information". Additional clarity and definition is required in this regard. Furthermore, Local 3471 cannot support a task force whose responsibilities are not completely defined. The By-Laws state that the task force's responsibilities "may include, but not "necessarily be limited to" what is stated in the By-Laws. Finally, the qualifications of the civilian members of the task force are wholly lacking and far from the level required to be beneficial members of such a task force.

The third proposal (Review Item #3) is the Draft City of Geneva Police Budget Advisory Board By-Laws. Local 3471 does not see the necessity of creating a Police Budget Advisory Board (PBAB). It is clear the sole purpose of the PBAB is to serve those who seek to defund the police department and the necessary services it provides to the people of the City of Geneva. Further, the qualifications of the civilian members of the PBAB are wholly lacking and far from the level required to be beneficial members of such a board.

In sum, Local 3471 cannot support the three draft proposals. Under the guise of police reform, the City Council seeks to disrupt the proper and efficient functioning of the Geneva Police Department and to deprive the public of law and order by placing the future of the Geneva Police Department in the hands of civilians who are neither elected officials nor qualified to handle the responsibilities they are being given. In fact, it is terrifying to understand that the City Council is seeking to hand so much power over to civilians that do not have the requisite level of education, experience or training needed to address such serious law enforcement issues. Moreover, Local 3471 is seriously disappointed in the City Council's knee-jerk approach to police reform by proffering the first set of proposals from special interest groups instead of meaningfully undertaking the effort to develop fair and practical proposals. We understand that Governor Cuomo has set a timeline by which an action plan must be presented concerning the police force. However, we consider the proposals presented here to be utterly reckless, with no thought being given to the ramifications or costs of the proposals if they are passed. If the City Council has any genuine intention to address police reform, proposals would be developed with our input and the input of other stakeholders before they are drafted. In addition, if these three proposals

are pushed forward for adoption in their current form, the City Council will be openly demonstrating their intent to not include Local 3471 and others as a stakeholders as they ignore and dismiss our input. The City Council can accomplish their goals if they are willing to sit down and discuss these matters in good faith. Otherwise, we will have no choice but to take every measure available to us to stop the implementation of these proposals if the City Council proceeds to adopt them as they are.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Travis N. Farmer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Travis N. Farmer  
Union President  
Local 3471  
NYS Law Enforcement Officers Union, Council 82 (AFSCME)