

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
HELD TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020, AT 5:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS HELD  
ELECTRONICALLY, WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION DUE TO THE CURRENT  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE  
ORDER DATED 18 MARCH 2020**

**Members Present:** Mayor Mike Peterson, Council Member Scott Bracken, Council Member Christine Mikell, Council Member Tali Bruce, Council Member Douglas Petersen

**Staff Present:** City Manager Tim Tingey, City Attorney Shane Topham, Police Chief Robby Russo, Assistant Fire Chief Riley Pilgrim, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Community/Economic Development Director Michael Johnson, Public Works Director Matt Shipp, Finance and Administrative Services Director S. Scott Jurgens, Communications Manager Tim Beery, Assistant Police Chief Paul Brenneman, Senior Planner Matt Taylor, City Planner Andrew Hulka

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed those listening.

**1. Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS: Draft Transportation Alternatives.**

Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Project Manager, Josh VanJura described the three alternatives for transportation for the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”). Other members of the team were also introduced. Mr. Van Jura described travel, mobility, and reliability problems associated with SR-210. The study area included from the mouth of Big Cottonwood, up Wasatch Boulevard, and turning east through the Town of Alta. Mr. VanJura stated that traffic modeling shows that in their design year 2050, they expect travel times to be 80 to 85 minutes, which is substantially worse than the existing conditions. He explained that the project purpose is to substantially improve the safety, reliability, and mobility along SR-210. He explained that Wasatch Boulevard has a different mobility problem that is related to evening peak traffic.

Mr. VanJura defined reliability as a degree of certainty and predictability in the traffic pattern. In terms of safety, avalanches pose a significant safety hazard in the canyons in addition to roadside parking issues. In April 2019, a public hearing period was conducted and they began with 105 different concepts that were narrowed down to three alternatives identified as enhanced bus, enhanced bus and shoulder widening, and the gondola option.

The Enhanced Bus Option would include no widening in the canyon but would include widening on Wasatch Boulevard with two mobility hubs. With this option, there would be 24 bus departures per hour during peak times. Dividing the 24 departures by two buses would equate to 12 departures per hour and no longer than a five-minute wait for a bus. There would be no stops in the canyon and none on Wasatch Boulevard to slow traffic. The enhanced bus alternative would result in a 54-minute travel time compared to 42 minutes in a private vehicle. The estimated cost would be \$283,000,000 with \$9,000,000 in operation and maintenance (“O& M”) costs.

The Enhanced Bus with widening in the Canyon Option would provide peak period shoulder lanes for buses. There would be the same road widening on Wasatch Boulevard and two mobility hubs, however, in this case, there would be an 11-foot widening both up and down the canyon from the LaCaille traffic light through the bypass road. This option would result in a travel time of 36 minutes compared to 38 minutes by private car. The cost would be \$470,000,000 with \$6.2 million in O&M costs.

The Gondola Option would involve a single mobility hub at the gravel pit and the same roadway widening on Wasatch Boulevard. The gondola would be located in the existing Little Canyon Park and Ride. To get there a user would have to travel on the bus from the mobility hub to the Gondola Bay Station, disembark the bus, get on the gondola, and travel on to Snowbird or Alta. Each gondola cabin would hold roughly 35 people with a gondola leaving every two minutes. The gondola only reaches speeds of 18 to 19 miles per hour with a 63-minute travel time. The gondola option would cost \$393,000,000 with \$4.5 million in O&M costs. Mr. Van Jura pointed out that the projected O&M costs represent winter service only. It was recognized, however, that the gondola option offers tourism opportunities. Input from the Council was sought as to whether to consider summer gondola service and any potential restrictions.

The proposed alternatives were projected to solve a 52-week per year problem for Wasatch Boulevard. The following five alternatives were considered:

- A transit-only alternative;
- Roundabouts;
- Reversible lanes;
- Unbalanced lane configuration; and
- Five-lane configuration.

The five-lane alternative would consist of two lanes southbound and two lanes northbound with a left turn lane where needed. There will also be bike lanes and a shoulder. Both options would include a 10-foot shared use path. The unbalanced lanes would involve two southbound lanes and one northbound lane. Both would meet the Level of Service D in 2050. The costs were close and included in the larger numbers referenced previously.

In response to a question raised, Mr. VanJura stated that neither option would have dedicated bus lanes, however, there would be an option for buses to use the shoulders during peak hours. They were not designed to serve as shoulder running bus lanes but would provide the ability to get ahead at stoplights.

Council Member Mikell asked about peak times and it was clarified that Mr. VanJura was referring to peak p.m. commuter times based on SR-210 as the study area. Mr. VanJura commented that SR-210 and Little Cottonwood Canyon have different mobility problems.

Mr. VanJura next addressed travel demand management and stated that they are proposing three transit alternatives to ultimately reduce personal vehicle use in the canyon. To do so, it is necessary to incentivize the bus or gondola options. An incentivized bus or gondola fare was part of all three primary alternatives. They were considering tolling or vehicle occupancy restrictions as well

during peak times. The cost had yet to be determined. Mr. VanJura stated that consideration was given to potentially only tolling the upper canyon. Another option was to consider congestion model pricing and providing a no toll area during low volume periods.

Mr. VanJura stated that they are nearing the end of the 35-day public comment period and have received over 4,000 comments since June 8. It was anticipated that a draft EIS will be completed in the Spring of 2021 that will include a public hearing followed by another 45-day public comment period. A Final EIS/Record of Decision was expected by the end of 2021.

Mayor Peterson asked why the rail option was eliminated. Mr. Van Jura stated that rail was eliminated in the Phase 2 screening process. The three things that differentiated the rail options were (1) impacts to the natural and built environment; (2) it had nearly double the number of impacts; (3) would have required the relocation of over 50 homes; and (4) and the cost was six times greater than the other alternatives at \$1.7 billion.

Mayor Peterson stated that his priority is Wasatch Boulevard and the gondola option shows it at the Mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. He acknowledged, however, that it could be anywhere. It most likely will require a transportation component at the gondola station. He asked how much analysis had gone into the impact that it would have on Wasatch Boulevard and the residential community. Mr. VanJura reported that they received an alternate proposal put forward by Chris McCandless. He suggested they look at that further to determine the traffic impact.

Potential impacts were discussed. Vince Izzo stated that they are studying from Fort Union Boulevard to Alta. UDOT continued to work with the Big Cottonwood Transportation Plan on concepts to improve the intersection and address concerns. He pointed out that it may be outside of the EIS.

Council Member Bracken asked about mobility on Wasatch Boulevard and stated that it has changed over time. The desire was to allow traffic to continue to flow there and avoid congestion. He recalled that last year John Thomas mentioned steps that can be taken to allow the flow of traffic to continue without reducing the service level of the road. Mr. VanJura stated that a significant amount of effort was put into the design process. The speed limit issue is complicated because it is set by State Code and UDOT policy. He suggested they have further discussion about how the two can work together.

Council Member Bracken commented that one of the things that helps keep speeds consistent is reducing the amount of wide, straight, flat spaces and implement gentle curves. If there's enough right-of-way they can perhaps add traffic calming features. Mayor Peterson commented that a great deal of time has been spent on the Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan. The desire was to be sensitive to getting transit to the canyons.

Council Member Bruce considered the designated bus lane concept to be fairly concrete but did not see it in the sketches. Mr. Izzo explained that the right-of-way they are proposing includes enough space in the shoulder and curb space to allow for buses. Currently, they are looking at providing bus priority at intersections. The intent was for traffic to flow well enough with the

improvements that the lanes are not needed and the lanes can remain open for bicycles, emergency pull-outs, or snow storage.

Mayor Peterson assumed that lane widening would provide flexibility to accommodate the bus priority and incentivize ridership. Mr. Izzo stated that their intent was not to pursue a BRT type of dedicated lane.

Council Member Mikell stated that she represents District 4 and has received numerous public comments. She expressed concern with transparency within the document. Her understanding was that the document was intended to address Little Cottonwood Canyon traffic issues and does not include commuter traffic, which was of concern to her. She was also concerned with the EIS and that there has been no action alternative. As a Council, they have spent a significant amount of time talking about the year 2050 and she was concerned with the cost of \$490 million. She pointed out that all City and State governments are struggling financially due to the pandemic. She struggled with the fact that short-term solutions and mobility hubs are not being considered. She suggested they implement other transit systems to prove the case of the EIS. She struggled with the EIS in general and stated that they are not proving the concept that transit will work. She had heard that UTA has had limited involvement but they are perplexed as to how they will provide the needed buses. She felt that the matter needs to be discussed further. She suggested that tolling be implemented, that more buses be added to the system, and that the number of mobility hubs be increased.

Mayor Peterson recognized that this is a monumental task and thanked Mr. VanJura for his efforts.

## **2. Review of Business Meeting Agenda – Mayor Mike Peterson.**

The Business Meeting agenda was reviewed.

Mayor Peterson reported that citizen comments received by 5:00 p.m. will be read into the record by City Manager, Tim Tingey.

The first action item was consideration of Ordinance 343. Mr. Johnson reported that there was nothing new to report since the last time the matter was heard by the Council. It has been reviewed by the Architectural Review Commission, the Planning Commission, and Parks Trails and Open Space Committee who all unanimously recommended forwarding a positive recommendation to the City Council. One component that was missing was the actual fine for the improper removal of trees. In looking at surrounding cities, it was determined that there is plenty of incentive to not illegally remove trees from public rights-of-way. Staff recommended that the fine be set at \$500 and was the only change made to the document.

The next action item was Consideration of Resolution 2020-31 approving entry into a Building Services Agreement with Sunrise Engineering. Mr. Johnson reported that Sunrise Engineering serves as the City's Contract Building Department. There were no new details from the previous contracts and the fee schedule remained unchanged. The contract is beneficial for the City since they do not pay a flat rate and instead pay a percentage of the Building Permit revenue. This makes it a much more resilient contract as economic conditions change.

In response to a question raised, Mr. Johnson stated that staff works with Building Official, James Short. Plan reviews are typically done much more quickly than legally required and building inspections are done on time. In addition, Sunrise Engineering has been very responsive to staffing issues.

The next agenda item was consideration of Resolution 2020-32 approving entry into an Agreement with Salt Lake County for distribution of funding of just over \$1 million of Coronavirus Aid Relief and Security (“CARES”) Act funding. Mr. Tingey stated that just over \$1 million in funding is available to the City. Staff has outlined possible ways to utilize the funds. Staff recommended approval.

The next agenda item was consideration of Resolution 2020-33 accepting a request for indemnification. Mayor Peterson stated that it was the same process used previously involving the reservation of rights. Because of a counterclaim of a Council Member toward the Police Chief, there has been a request for indemnification.

City Attorney, Shane Topham reported that the matter involves a complaint filed against a Council Member. The Council Member has filed an Answer to the Complaint as well as a Counterclaim against Chief Russo. Chief Russo has requested the same indemnification. Mr. Topham stated that that would be appropriate. If the claim is accepted, Chief Russo is subject to reservation of rights unless any of the claims are not within the scope and course of his job requirements. By statute, the City must respond to a request for Defense of Indemnity within 10 days. The claim has been submitted to the City’s insurer but no response had yet been received.

In response to a question raised, Mr. Topham explained that it is a statutory obligation for the governmental entity to provide defense and indemnity to its employees for duties they perform within the course and scope of their job responsibilities. He noted that it is part of the Utah Governmental Immunity Act. The counterclaim involves a separate set of claims against the City employee. Mayor Peterson clarified that with the reservation of rights, the indemnity only applies if it is deemed that the actions are part of the responsibilities of the position they hold. Mr. Topham stated that to his knowledge there has never been a time when a city officer or employee has been sued where the defense of indemnity with reservation of rights was not granted.

Mayor Peterson stated that approval of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

### **3. Staff Reports.**

#### **a. Discussion to Receive Input on UDOT’s EIS – Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson.**

Mayor Peterson suggested that the Council discuss the City’s response to the EIS transportation alternatives. Hundreds of comments had been received and a summary was provided.

Mr. Johnson displayed the draft letter and stated that the first page includes previous concepts. The bullet points were primarily taken from the Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan and frame how

they look at capacity. One addition was to provide additional information and analysis that directly references and addresses the impact of the alternatives on the residents living along the corridor.

The various categories were discussed. The first alternative was the Enhanced Bus Option without additional capacity in Little Cottonwood Canyon. He noted that there is an issue where even with additional travel lanes there will still be bottlenecks. Traffic eventually is reduced to one lane near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Travel time under that option is significantly greater than driving up the canyon in a private vehicle. This option will result in additional capacity for single-occupancy vehicles and transit incentives will decrease. Staff's opinion was that this alternative seems to promote road widening in a manner that does not properly incentivize transit utilization.

The second alternative was the Bus Shoulder Lane up the canyon. This was the only option that reduces travel time. To avoid a bottleneck, the additional transit lane is necessary. Conceptually, this provides an opportunity to travel in a bus-specific lane from the gravel pit to the ski resorts. If capacity is added, transit should be incentivized on the additional lanes.

The third alternative was identified as the Gondola Option, which has numerous issues. It is appealing from a tourism and economic development standpoint but there too many concerns that have not been addressed. Currently, it requires two stops. A user would be required to stop at a transit hub and take a bus to the gondola and it would take twice as long to travel up the canyon. This option would require parking at the Gondola station as well, which would create substantial traffic impacts that have not been fully analyzed. The gravel pit was considered as a mobility hub site. Staff recommended they continue to pursue that option.

Mr. Johnson stated that staff is recommending an investment of approximately 2,500 vehicle stalls, which is a major public investment. He stated that it makes sense for UDOT to incorporate that into a shared development situation where parking is available on busy ski days and utilized year-round. UDOT was also analyzing 30% ridership in transit, which is a substantial increase over current figures. According to the analysis, 30% ridership requires only 1,400 stalls, and 2,500 stalls are proposed with each of the scenarios. There was some question as to what impact 2,500 stalls will have on transit ridership.

Mr. Johnson next addressed the Wasatch Boulevard design and stated that the City has strongly encouraged UDOT to approach roadway widening with a priority accommodating transit. The Imbalanced Lane alternative was determined to be more palpable than widening in both directions with flex capacity. Mr. Johnson commented that widening northbound lanes seems to only benefit commuter traffic and not canyon traffic. However, even in this limited capacity, the imbalance solution should explore transit priority measures further.

UDOT was encouraged to update their cross-sections to show a planted park strip, which is currently a concrete park strip that is not desired. A median in the middle of the road with trees and landscaping was suggested to help with the design and character of the road and slow traffic. Speed limits, pedestrian crossing, intersections improvements, and visibility on Wasatch Boulevard will be addressed as part of the next step. Staff, however, did not want to get to the next step without having addressed these critical issues. Staff felt they should be further analyzed

and presented for public comment as is standard practice. Mr. Johnson commented that a good design creates a better character and neighborhood quality and does not detrimentally affect the ability for traffic to flow through the area. Staff encouraged further collaborative review of the Wasatch Boulevard Aesthetic Design Plan. The desire was to discourage any concept that utilizes existing Park and Ride Lots within the Wasatch Boulevard Corridor as it creates congestion.

Mayor Peterson thanked Mr. Johnson for his efforts and stated that of utmost importance to the City is the Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan. He stated that they have commitments from UDOT that can be applied to planning.

Council Member Mikell appreciated the work that had gone into the document. She remarked that everyone is doing a good job of lobbying for what they want. She felt that the Council should do some lobbying as well. She was disappointed in what she has seen in the documents. There is great vision but she stressed the importance of getting the attention of decision-makers.

Council Member Mikell stated that one year ago they drafted a letter regarding UDOT working with the Council and agreeing to the 35 MPH per hour speed limit. The letter was sent to the newspaper but it was not published. She stated that they owe it to themselves and their constituents to move the matter forward and schedule a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor and UDOT. She commented that Mr. Johnson did a good job of pushing UDOT but was concerned that the Council will be overpowered.

Council Member Mikell could see the effort evolving into another Highland Drive but questioned whether it will actually move forward. She commented that what is proposed will change the character of the neighborhood. The Council is in a position where they are advancing transportation, which will result in more cars. Council Member Mikell commented that they are talking about 2050 and suggested it be done in a phased approach and considered it to be a waste of taxpayer money.

Council Member Mikell commented that the Council previously addressed traffic calming measures. She advocated for the inclusion of a decibel level in the Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan. With regard to flex shoulders, she recalled that the Council was in agreement and supported the idea of a dedicated transit lane. She did not feel it made sense to pursue the flex shoulders further. With regard to additional traffic during peak travel times, she did not understand why they would increase the two-mile segment. Mayor Peterson stated that support was expressed for using the flex lane rather than the dedicated lane because it is narrower. Issues associated with flex lanes were discussed.

Council Member Bruce expressed concern that John Thomas is no longer involved. She stated that he took a lot of public comment and guaranteed the 35 MPH speed limit. Mr. Johnson stated that he was told that it is fairly standard for UDOT to reassign project managers on large projects. Mayor Peterson did not recall Mr. Thomas stating that the 35 MPH was guaranteed but that it was something the policy would allow for. The implication, however, was that it was possible. Council Member Bracken had the same recollection. He stated that the 35 MPH speed limit was in conjunction with the redesign. It was suggested that the minutes and audio from previous meetings be reviewed.

Mayor Peterson further commented that over the last month Mr. VanJura recommitted in a public meeting that the Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan is still the guiding force in developing Wasatch Boulevard. The Mayor has repeatedly indicated that that is what they expect and what they have been assured will happen. He commented that the gondola was not discussed but the impacts are substantial and should be thoroughly analyzed. He also noted that there are unintended consequences for Big Cottonwood Canyon. He suggested there be a phased approach to ensure that there are improvements and actions taken well before 2050.

Mayor Peterson suggested that if the gondola option is pursued it must not be limited just to the winter months. They need to continue to focus on constituents who live along Wasatch Boulevard and how the transit alternatives will impact them. There should also be an emphasis on intersections, Park and Rides, and speed limit issues. Capacity issues should also be addressed.

Mayor Peterson commented that Salt Lake City Public Utilities has a huge environmental concern including improvements within rights-of-ways going up Little Cottonwood Canyon and snow sheds because of the 500,000 people that rely on water from the canyons. Any potential impacts to water should be thoroughly analyzed.

Tolling issues were discussed. Mr. Johnson stated that it is included in the same category as the roadway design, speed, and function. Mayor Peterson did not believe there was enough information to choose an option but stated that there are fundamentals that should be addressed to allow the Council to take a position.

Council Member Petersen recalled that presently powder days present the biggest problem. He asked if it was standard to go out 30 years in a situation such as this. Mayor Peterson stated that it is normal and commented that Envision Utah has been rolling the 30-year plans out for several years. The intent was to have plans in place so that they are not overwhelmed. Council Member Petersen was worried about the capacity year-round and stated that the population will continue to increase but the capacity is limited. Mayor Peterson suggested they look at a phased approach. He did not feel that the document was taking a position other than posing a question of what should be looked at. Once those questions are explored, they should have enough facts to take a formal position.

Council Member Mikell asked how many homes will be lost in the City as part of the widening of Wasatch Boulevard. Mr. Johnson stated that each scenario shows one. Slide issues associated with the mobility hub were discussed. The timeline specifies that a preferred scenario is desired by the end of 2021. That, however, has been delayed. Council Member Petersen questioned how much impact the Council will have on the decisions being made. Mr. Johnson stated that the adopted Master Plan includes an expectation that they will work with multiple cities on adopting master plans, if possible. Currently, he meets with UDOT representatives weekly.

Council Member Mikell asked how UDOT's gondola plan aligns with the McCandless gondola plan, which includes parking at the base of the gondola. Mr. Johnson stated that UDOT's plan does not factor in the McCandless plan. Timing issues were discussed.



Council Member Bruce had heard that the 1,500 parking stalls that could accompany the gondola will be considered preferred parking and will not be utilized by the residents who are most impacted. Mr. Johnson stated that the City could indicate that in its current state it does not work well in terms of travel times. Parking will create other concerns and require further analysis.

Mayor Peterson stated that the City will have input since the gondola option will require action by the City in terms of zoning since it is in a residential area.

Council Member Bruce recognized that the Mayor is doing a great deal of lobbying in the interest of the City but she thought it would be prudent to go a step further. Mayor Peterson agreed and stated that hearing other voices would be of value. He explained that his strategy with the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) is to mirror the desires of the City based on their own analysis and comments.

It was suggested that Mr. Johnson make a note of Council Member Mikell’s point about local residents being able to access the McCandless gondola and giving Cottonwood Heights residents the highest priority.

**b. Police Policies and Training Discussion – Police Chief Robby Russo and Lieutenant Dan Bartlett.**

**i. Training.**

**ii. Use of Force Policies.**

**iii. Messaging.**

**iv. ULCT Police Task Force.**

**c. Events Discussion – Culture Manager, Ann Eatchell.**

Culture Manager, Ann Eatchell commented that most events have been changed to take place virtually. Butlerville Days and *Matilda* were both canceled as well as Bark in the Park and Monster Mash because they are two events that will be extremely difficult to social distance. The intent was to do some other events that can be socially distanced within the respective budgets. She was pleased that the Arts Council and the Historic Committee were both adept at doing virtual events. The Arts Council started a Facebook campaign called At Home in the Heights. They sponsored a photography contest, which was very popular. They were currently doing Theater in the Heights-Trick of the Trade during the month of July. The Historic Committee started a Facebook campaign as well and had over 600 followers within two weeks. Ms. Eatchell had been very impressed with both committees. The Historic Committee also assisted the Parks and Trails Committee with their map.

Ms. Eatchell was asked by Chuck Cohen about the potential to do a Car Show Parade. They would start at a specific location in the City and follow a route that would be created. Residents along the route would be informed that a car show of classic antique cars will be coming and will be

asked to stay home and social distance. Midvale City offered to partner with the City on the event, which was scheduled for August 22. The City would be a sponsor but it would not be a Butlerville Days event. The cost would be minimal. Some help with policing would be desired to guide the cars. No preliminary route had yet been discussed. Mayor Peterson indicated that he received numerous requests from residents who are interested in events that will help bring the community together. The Council expressed their support for the event.

**d. Fireworks Safety Discussion – UFA Assistant Chief, Riley Pilgrim.**

Mayor Peterson reported that he received several emails from residents who demanded that fireworks be banned completely in the City. UFA Assistant Chief, Riley Pilgrim stated that the same is being done in many cities in the valley. He noted that fireworks complaints have taken up a lot of their time. On the Fourth of July, they received 12 calls from Cottonwood Heights, one of which was a fire call. These numbers were comparable to previous years. Chief Pilgrim felt that the outreach had been effective and stated that there had also been a lot of positive comments received about the fireworks map.

Police Chief, Robby Russo stated that the Police Department had no enforcement issues on July 4.

Council Member Mikell asked if simple changes could be made to the legislation to give constituents comfort and ban fireworks in those areas. Chief Pilgrim stated that minor adjustments have been made to the language. They can also lean on historical recognition of past fires. The concerns raised were valid and will help justify the actions taken. Chief Pilgrim stated that the UFA will continue to work to refine the maps and identify problem areas.

Council Member Bracken recalled that they have addressed the Legislature and there has been lobbying taking place. He suggested that any other areas that can be justified be included on the map as soon as possible.

Mr. Topham reported that the City of Holladay has defined more clear-cut boundaries in terms of prohibited areas, which can be done under applicable State law.

**4. Review of Calendars and Upcoming Events.**

There were no items to review.

**5. Possible Closed Meeting to Discuss Litigation, Property Acquisition and/or the Character and Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.**

No Closed Meeting was needed.

**6. Adjourn City Council Work Session.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to adjourn the Work Session at 7:05 p.m. and reconvene the Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Petersen. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

At the conclusion of the Business Meeting, the Council reconvened in the work meeting to address the remaining agenda items.

The Work Session adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

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**1.0 WELCOME/PLEDGE**

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Doug Petersen.

Council Member Petersen stated he would like to dedicate the Pledge of Allegiance to the brave women of the military, police, firefighters, and all first responders who sacrifice so much. He thanked them for their dedication to preserve our freedoms, safety, and quality of life.

Commission Member Tali Bruce commented that she would kneel out of concern and respect for people of color in the community and especially first responders.

**2.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS**

City Manager, Tim Tingey read into the record the following public comments submitted to the City Recorder prior to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

*Gabrielle Nacey:* I would like to start by saying how amazing Council Woman Tali Bruce has been with being a voice for the people in Cottonwood Heights that are rarely represented. Secondly, I strongly believe that police reform is required to help create a better community, reallocating a portion of the Police Department's latest budget being the first change that is needed. I also feel that Chief Russo does not focus on the safety or well-being of the citizens as much as needed.

Finally, the expansion of Wasatch Boulevard would be detrimental to the natural beauty and lives along the way. They have many other options such as smartphone technology or the reversible roads like we see in Taylorsville.

Tori Horsley: I have listened to the June 16<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. Please note this letter is not to attack Tali but maybe she can shed some light on her views. We all have friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers that are a minority in some fashion. One thing we all have in common is that if we break the law, we get in trouble.

Tali, if you truly wanted peace in our community you would not have had your protest/rally, against our police, at OUR police headquarters. This was both, out of line, and in poor taste. Tali referred to the "we support the police" rally as "protesters". We were not protesting anything; we were supporting our police. However, her rally was a protest against the police. Tali mentioned she was hoping the "police supporters" would have stayed and listened to the BLM speakers. She said, "They were fabulous speeches". She also mentioned, "it's heartbreaking to play on people's emotions and manipulate with fear". We didn't stay and listen to the speeches because we were being manipulated with fear from some of her protesters.

My sweet mother who believes in equality and was present at a Martin Luther King, Jr. rally back in the '60s was sworn and yelled at by one of Tali's supporters. Also, Tali mentioned the police are to protect every member of our community and that they were publicized and that shouldn't happen. Tali maybe you should have read the signs. They were cut out hearts thanking the police. Also, Tali's comments on people "flying through the intersection with Trump flags" yes, Tali is right, nobody should be speeding, as for displaying the Trump flag that is exercising their First Amendment rights.

This was a BLM/defunding of the Police Protest. Statistically in cities across the nation. Cities that are voting to defund the police have had an increase in crime 20%-200%. I am in 100% support of the Police.

Bonnie Paxman: I am pleased with our CH Police Department and the way they carry out their responsibilities. I have lived on Bridgeport Avenue for 35 years. I have experienced the improvements in governance and police performance in the work given to them as our area transitioned from being an unincorporated part of Salt Lake County into the City of Cottonwood Heights. I have called upon CH Police Services several times over the years to address situations and conditions in the community that I noticed were not normal or appeared dangerous as I was taking my daily health walks. I have called upon them in the care of my own family. I have found that their attitudes and actions have been excellent and very professional.

I find it wise for Cottonwood Heights to have its own Police Department. Two of several benefits are:

- shorter response time in officers being at the scene of a call/need;
- better and more effective local community-specific oversight of police actions; and
- guaranteeing that CH citizens' needs are being appropriately met.

It has been my observation that several of the items or actions requested by the "police reform" group are already being practiced with excellence by the CH Police force. I wish to continue to have the Police Department fully funded. I would prefer to be additionally taxed to cover obvious needs of personnel and institutions to handle cases of people who are emotionally unstable,

mentally ill, have addiction problems, etc., **NOT** take away from fully funding the CH Police. Thank you for serving our community!

Nancy Hardy: Is there a brief synopsis of the 162-page Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan that highlights the goals and objectives? It might be helpful to the community given all the projects going on in the CH area. John Thomas' comments of the July 2, 2019 City Council Meeting were agreed to. Have they been incorporated into the Wasatch Plan, including gateway features 35 mph speed limit and design features, etc.

Wendy Wixom: Without the rule of law, there is no definition for crime. Thus, whoever can force others, by any means, to give into his will, gets his way. That's anarchy. Without laws and people to enforce them we have in effect, no freedoms. The Cottonwood Heights Police Department ("CHPD") risks their lives daily to reinforce the rule of law and protect our community.

George Floyd's death was an atrocity. Nonetheless, the silencing of police supporters and the rise to defund the police has led to an increased tolerance for vandalism and violence. This sends a clear message to criminals that society will no longer prevent lawlessness. The result, a rise in bloodshed.

Harvard economists found when officers back off of proactive policing, violence increases. In Minneapolis, shootings have more than doubled - most occurring since the death of George Floyd. New York City's shooting victims are up 42 percent through June 21, and the homicide rate is at a five-year high. Baltimore has seen the highest homicide rate on record. In Chicago, the holiday weekend alone left 79 shooting victims and 15 deaths, 11 were children.

"For the last five years, ...police [nationally] have fatally shot about 1,000 civilians annually, the vast majority ... were armed or otherwise dangerous.... Ideally, officers would never take anyone's life in the course of their duties. But given the number of arrests they make each year (around 10 million) and the number of deadly-weapons attacks on officers (an average of 27 per day ...)” arguably these 1,000 civilian shooting deaths do not suggest that law enforcement is out of control.

Since the creation of the CHPD, we have benefitted from “some of the valley's lowest crime rates, ... great response times and some of the highest clearance rates of crimes. The cost for the service is equivalent to what the city would have paid the county for contracted services.”

If we are concerned about the performance of our CHPD, let's invest in additional training for techniques to control stress, de-escalation practices, and hands-on tactical training. “Reducing police resources will...result in poorer service to the law-abiding residents... Officers without back-up will be more stressed and at higher risk of poor judgment. Response times will increase. Cash-starved agencies will train less, ...lower pay scales will result in less qualified recruits...A reduced police presence ... will claim more ...lives.”

As an elected official the City Council you have an obligation to maintain policy that would keep Cottonwood Heights safe. Do not defund the CHPD.

Madeline Malini: If UDOT wants to keep commuters from Sandy, Draper, Cottonwood Heights, and other communities within the area of the valley moving, they in conjunction with UTA, need to look at offering enhanced public transportation options for residents of these cities. First, before irrevocably changing the landscape of our community through road widening and parking lots, as a former resident of Sugarhouse, I saw firsthand what enhanced public transit and increased bike and walking trails. Due to a community, I saw how the S-line streetcar and increased walking, biking trails not only alleviated car traffic but increased property values in my community. Now that Cottonwood Heights is my home, I love the access to the canyons and bike lanes the community affords but have seen a huge lack in public transit services. UDOT has ruled out public transit is a viable solution to access the canyons, but that would be again to UTA saying that the S-line streetcar wouldn't work in Sugarhouse. You can't discount something unless you have really tried it in your community. Knowing that the quarry site will be developed, lets focus on attention on that as a good spot for one transportation hub with enhanced shuttle services, walking and bike trails and even perhaps a resort hotel. Just focusing on one section in the quadrant to relieve congestion from traffic coming from all directions in the valley doesn't make sense either. Looking at other additional transportation hubs that have expressed services to the canyons will help even more.

Before spending hundreds of millions of dollars to forever bulldoze down Utah's Pinetree line gateway to Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons to create a high-speed arterial, let us really explore public transportation coming from many different directions. It's not only more cost-effective, but services to enhance property value instead of decreasing it.

The old adage of if you build it, they will come remains true for this community. If the public transit infrastructure is built, it will be used for the road widening and parking lots, they will be used and I want this community to remain the City between the Canyons, not the parking lot between the Canyons.

Anna Marie McNamer: First I want to commend Councilwoman Bruce for her continued commitment to reaching out to citizens and having productive conversations with constituents across our city. Her actions speak to her drive to hold herself and our community to a high standard. Thank you!

I also want to thank Mayor Peterson for supporting County Mayor Wilson in encouraging Utah's to MASK UP and be proactive in our healthcare. Thank you for representing our city. Just a few weeks ago, our city hosted a rally to encourage policies that would support our local police in continuing to hold themselves to a high standard. These requests were fiscally responsible and small in nature. As we continue growing our community and being leaders in our county, I hope to see, here tonight a proposal that would reform city policy to include a requirement for officers to keep their body cameras on at all times, require a periodic and randomized review of footage, increase de-escalation training, and implement a volunteer citizen review board.

Across the valley, our local elected officials are creating proposals to update policies of their local Police Departments to protect both citizens and the integrity of local officers. Our city has yet to adopt a resolution, proposal, or policy change. Sandy City met with its protest organizers and drafted a proactive statement. Midvale released a resolution declaring racism a public health

crisis. These are the types of proactive solutions residents look for in our civic leaders. I hope the Cottonwood Heights City Council makes the choice to be a leader on this issue instead of being left in the dust.

Wendy Garner: I am a schoolteacher who has resided in Cottonwood Heights for 12 years.

First, I would like to address the comments made by Councilman Doug Petersen on June 16th. His accusations that Councilwoman Bruce brought "that" into our city was offensive, ugly, divisive, and frankly unbecoming an elected official. Councilwoman Bruce may be a lone voice on the City Council, but she speaks for many of us. "That" which was "brought into our city" was already here. We are here; we are angry and tired, and we deserve to be heard.

We have a Police Department problem in Cottonwood Heights. Even if your own experience has been positive, that does not give you the right to ignore or invalidate the experiences of others. Start by listening with an open mind and a willingness to make things better for all of us. It is in your power to do so, and you must. Our Police Department has a reputation for bullying residents and businesses and you can't ignore it. Public trust has suffered.

Our city should welcome all people. This City Council should recognize that the problems facing our city affect not only residents, but also those who work, shop, recreate, and travel through Cottonwood Heights. If things don't change, people will not want to live, work, or do business here. We must do better. Now is the time.

I believe that an independent review board is necessary, and the City Council must act on the recommendations of that board. I believe that there should be whistleblower protections for officers and residents so that individuals can report police officers without fear of retribution.

Mayor Peterson and members of the Council, I implore you to make changes to our Police Department. They cannot adequately "protect and serve" our community unless changes are made to restore the public trust.

Matilda Barth: My name is Matilda Barth and my parents immigrated from Mexico. I have been a proud U.S. Citizen since July 6, 2000. I have lived in Cottonwood Heights for 21 years and my husband and I raised our four children here. I've owned a business and I've taught at our local middle school here in Cottonwood Heights. I have very high regard for our City. It's beautiful, we have amazing freeway access, the neighbors have pride in maintaining their property, all the people I know are kind, friendly, accepting. The few times I have needed the police, they have been the best of the best. They were fast, professional, and respectful. I fully support our Police Department and I don't agree with defunding the police in any way, shape, or form and keeping it as a local Police Department as opposed to a county department. Our police need continued training with useful skills to help them in their profession. I am not an expert but I think that keeping up on tactical training, de-escalation techniques, and stress management for police would be good. Our police put their lives on the line every day and their jobs are very difficult.

I listened to the last Council Meeting and I have a few questions about it. Are there any instances of police brutality with the Cottonwood Heights Police Department? Why is the Cottonwood



Heights Police Department being scrutinized as if it has the problems of a big inner-city? There is a Council member who agrees with defunding our police, did she bring up this concern to our City Council before the national narrative that is going on now? Who are all the Cottonwood Heights citizens who are being suppressed, targeted, discriminated against, bullied, and harassed? Who are the victims and who are the aggressors? I would like to see statistics of all the people being targeted, discriminated against, bullied, and harassed? Who are the victims and who are the aggressors? I would like to see statistics of all the people being targeted and would like to know how the City is keeping track of them and how these problems are being handled.

White supremacy was mentioned as part of some remarks in the meeting as if it's part of our city and culture. I totally disagree with that thinking. It is not part of our City or our culture and I resent that the good people in Cottonwood Heights are being labeled "white supremacist".

I am 51 years old and I've never experienced any kind of racism in the U.S. against me or any of my family members. I don't see a problem with racism in Cottonwood Heights and don't believe there is a systematic problem in any other city I've ever lived in both California and Utah.

Let's keep our City great and not import problems from the big inner cities as if they are our own. Let's work on and fix the real problems that are going on in our City.

Timothy Halbeck: Hi everybody. First some science, then some jokes. I followed up on a question someone had last summer about 3G, 4G, and 5G cell phone signals and their effects on bees. Turns out there actually is something there. The base carrier signal used universally happens to be a resonant frequency of un-laid honeybee egg membranes. So, in strong signal conditions, the eggs burst inside the queen, which leads to colony disorder. Fortunately, a simple Faraday cage over the top 2/3rds of each hive blocks the signal completely, so it's an easy fix. I'm sure we all remember how to make a Faraday cage. Of course, none of the bees can then use a cell phone, but hey, they should be minding their own beeswax anyway. Speaking of jokes. I'm not saying Mayor Peterson is old, but he took his driver's test on a dinosaur. When I was born, JFK has just said "We choose to go to the moon." When the Mayor was born, someone had just said "Let there be light." (pause) Keep up the great work, a big thank you to all the folks that make our great city safe and operational even during these memorable times.

Craig Paxman: I was very happy to read the piece in the July CH Newsletter regarding CH Police Department policies and practices. I applaud the foresight of the CH City Council and the leaders of the CHPD in the policies they have in place and the training they provide. Please continue with this.

It seems understandable that some recent and some ongoing serious missteps by police officers and departments in our country have caused outrage, anger, and calls for change. I express my confidence that the CHPD has been ahead of the game and is on the right track. Thank you!

Cottonwood Heights is not Salt Lake City or Minneapolis or New York City. Calls to "Defund the Police" and similar protest-inspired ideas are not good approaches for our community. Some ideas, such as keeping track of demographics of people pulled over, arrested, etc., certainly merit exploring.

Thank you, City Council Members, for being able to listen to those with heartfelt concerns and for being able, now, to move on in marvelous ways for Cottonwood Heights, as the Police Department continues with its ongoing training, scrutinizing its policies, and progress!

Ellen Birrell: “Curves Equal Character” Curvy. Residential. A Gateway to Utah’s prized Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. These are some of Wasatch Blvd’s current attributes, though it needs an express bus lane, neighborhood egress/ingress, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. But let’s go back in time. It is understandable that SR 210 was slated at 50 mph decades ago when the area was more open and rural. Traffic was light. Cars were spaced farther apart and could travel at 50 mph through the curvy road, which was only beginning to be dotted by new tracts of homes. Today, the Cottonwood Heights section is built out and has eleven cross-section residential streets. No longer a rural road and with projected population growth, there is an even greater need to treat this stretch as a street. A street where children access their community park and schools, people of all ages including the elderly and disabled use crosswalks and need calmed traffic, not an impassable high-speed roadway. As John Thomas, UDOT Project Manager testified in front of the Cottonwood Heights City Council on July 2, 2019: “From UDOT’s senior leadership, we are going to do something we have not done before anywhere else in the state. From the executive director to the Region Two Director and deputy director (we have) a commitment to make Wasatch Blvd a gateway facility. . . We are looking for a way to post it at 35 mph. . . The intent is to get it there.” Our Mayor Peterson likewise confirmed: “Yesterday, I made contact with his supervisor, Carlos Bracerros, the director of UDOT, and he articulated basically what John just said, he (Bracerros) said ‘that is true’”. To accomplish the lower speed, Thomas said, “If you can imagine a boulevard, a landscaped median, things feel close in rather than (for example) Foothill Drive, a five-lane road, asphalt, I want to go fast.” All these sentiments from 2019 are the opposite of the 20’ clear space asphalted shoulders, 14’ asphalt median, and 12’ wide lanes that the current alternatives include. My question is, after all the taxpayer dollars spent by UDOT and endless hours of private citizens’ time, where are those elements now in the preferred alternatives? They aren’t.

The current Imbalanced Lane and Five-lane alternatives are standard state roadway. Both of UDOT’s two preferred alternatives fracture the Cottonwood Heights community by removing bicycle, pedestrian and hikers’ access to trails, stores, schools, parks completely hampering Active Transportation, and add danger (pedestrian and vehicular T-bone collisions), adding air, light, and noise pollution for residents. Further analysis to find logical, transit-based alternatives is necessary.

(2<sup>nd</sup> email)

I want to submit two comments for today’s City Council Meeting and understand the time limitation per comment. I hope that, in addition to my LCC EIS comment, you will also have this comment read and entered into public record for today’s meeting.

Regarding CHPD Reform: As a citizen of Cottonwood Heights, I would like to see reform to the Cottonwood Heights Police Department to include mandating all local officers be equipped with body cameras, repealing what’s commonly called the “fleeing felon” statute, banning chokeholds, creating an annual report about every agency’s use of force, and requiring cops to have objective justification for making stops, implementation of a citizen review board, and a change in

regulations that would allow people to sue law enforcement officers in their individual capacities over allegations of infringement of constitutional rights.

Kim Stojack: Thomas Jefferson said, “LAW is often but the Tyrant’s will and always so when it VIOLATES the rights of the individual...The care of HUMAN LIFE and happiness, NOT their destruction is the first and only charter of good government.”

What is Protect and Serve? You are here as oath keepers to protect our rights, not to violate them! Protect and Serve does not mean to shoot a teenage boy in the back and kill him.

Protect and Serve does not mean to run a family of color out of our City.

Protect and Serve does not mean to run a business owner and reporter off the road.

Protect and Serve does not mean to harass a City Council Woman.

Protect and Serve does not mean to violate one’s civil rights.

Protect and Serve does not mean when your vehicle is broken into you say, “it’s not our problem, call your insurance.”

Protect and Serve does not mean when answering a domestic dispute then taking sexual advantage of a female citizen while on duty.

The time has come to stand up and take back our community and follow the motto on the back of your vehicles to “Solve the Problem”. It’s time for Cottonwood Heights government to stand up and “Solve the Problem” and take action. This has been going on in our community for over 10 years. We as citizens of Cottonwood Height are DONE with the harassment, intimidation, and abuse of power! This behavior needs to END NOW!!!

Because you do take an Oath to Serve and Protect, you should adhere to a higher standard of obeying the law, not breaking it. You should be held liable and accountable if you choose otherwise. We are so gripped by police brutality in our country and a first step in solving the problem would be to abolish “Qualified Immunity”.

A citizen’s review board should be put into place to investigate “Officer-involved critical incidents”. When an officer is involved in such an incident, there should be mandatory drug testing on the officers involved.

Bodycams should be worn at all times while on duty. If you don’t have anything to hide, then it shouldn’t be a problem. If an officer fails to do so, they should be reprimanded.

Last but not least, our tax paying dollars should not be paying for military-style vehicles and military-style assault weapons. This is Cottonwood Heights, not Baghdad.

It is time for change in our city and we as taxpaying citizens demand our city government to step up and take responsibility to make sure these changes are done.

Aaron and Tiffany Janis: A close family friend and a longstanding community leader said to us about the death of our son Zane James, “What you allow – you condone”. It is this statement that made us personally approach Mayor Peterson and City Manager Tingey in 2018 shortly after our son’s death which resulted from being shot twice in the back by an off-duty police officer with the

Cottonwood Heights Police Department. Despite our grief, and sometimes anger at the City's silence on what had happened, we requested this meeting to try to open a transparent dialogue with our City leaders about completing a City-lead independent evaluation into their own CHPD policies and practices. We did this because we believed that a better understanding by City leaders of what our son and family experienced could lead to positive change that would prevent any other family in our community from experiencing the same devastation.

We still believe this type of City-lead evaluation of questions surrounding our experience can be done today. In fact, we believe it is more relevant than ever given the community outcry as more and more events of similar police brutality have become public. We also believe it is particularly necessary for our City leaders to ask the following hard questions about our experience given the recently published July 2020 Cottonwood Heights Newsletter which provides a detailed description of police policies and practices that given adequate adherence to by CHPD officers should have prevented our son's death.

With that said, we request the Mayor and City Council contemplate and respond with reform recommendations to address:

- 1) What other alternative actions the officer could have taken based on de-escalation and non-lethal methods to prevent the use of deadly force with no verbal warning as an injured suspect was running away at a distance of less than 30 feet from the officer on a neighborhood street.
- 2) The impact on the ability to complete this type of examination without the City having a mandatory requirement for police officers to wear body and use car cameras.
- 3) The reasons why City Leaders and the Police Chief would publicly support an officer who has Qualified Immunity to refuse to provide a statement about his decisions to shoot a suspect rather than use other available non-lethal methods to arrest him.
- 4) The reasons why City Leaders and the Police Chief would award this officer and other officers involved in the incident a commendation for his service in a public ceremony before the independent investigation of the incident and the District Attorney's criminal ruling were completed.
- 5) The possible causes and institutional culture behind the other aggressive and punitive behaviors we observed and reported in multiple interactions with CHPD officers and our son over an 18-month period prior to his death.
- 6) The reasons why CHPD officers and the Police Chief would personally made public statements and social media posts during this 18-month period before and then after Zane's death portraying him falsely as a known violent criminal.

- 7) The reasons why the other details described above about his death were not disclosed in any public statements or even the independent investigation report results and the DA's criminal findings report.

At the time of our 2018 conversation, both the Mayor and City Manager were under the impression that they could not immediately respond to our concerns as there was a potential the discussions could be used to support a lawsuit against the City and the CHPD – one that we said we would not file if the City was willing to complete a transparent review process of the concerns raised above and appropriate policy reforms were considered.

Unfortunately, no action was taken by the City at that time but we still believe it is possible to have that dialog now in an open forum with City leaders and the broader group of people that are also calling for this type of scrutiny into CHPD policies, procedures, and practices.

The reason we still believe that this is possible is because we know that today our City leaders have more information rather than less about not just the impact of police brutality on our family's life but on countless other lives nationwide and many want to support change. Moreover, those City leaders understand that by taking these steps, it is not Anti-Police – or even Anti-City – it is just what responsible City leaders are supposed to do and ultimately it will help to improve the relationship our community has with the Police Department and individual officers as well as it will improve the everyday responses by officers to citizens of all races, classes, genders, and conditions of mental health.

We support and acknowledge the bravery of these City leaders and all of you on our City Council who now have the responsibility to take positive action on this cause.

Lori Carter: I have had two experiences with CHPD. Both left me feeling distrustful of our local police force. The first happened about three years ago when a police officer came to my home. He asked to search our backyard for a reported “suspicious Black man” in the area. At the time I was home alone and felt very uncomfortable with someone looking through my property. But at the same time, I was raised to respect and trust our police officers. I had no idea if this person was actually a part of CHPD, so I asked for his ID. His response was to laugh at me and say, “The uniform's not enough? Geez.” He reluctantly showed me his badge after I refused access to my yard unless I knew who he was. I quickly called my husband while this person looked around our property and had him Google the officer to validate his position. He was part of CHPD. I immediately regretted giving him permission to come into our yard, because I felt very uneasy and not safe at all. If CHPD treats residents like I was treated when they needed MY help, I can't imagine how I would be treated if I were in a position where I needed their help.

The second happened at Butler Middle school. One of the officers did a presentation in the 7th-grade Health class about drugs and addiction. I asked the officer for a copy of the curriculum so I would be informed on what was being taught, and so this important conversation could continue at home. The response was very defensive. “Why would you need a copy of that?” Followed by him laughing. When I explained my reasoning, he said he would send me a copy. It never happened.

Both encounters made me feel disrespected and belittled. I don't know if these male officers need a training course on respecting women, or people in general. But some changes need to be made. There is no reason for CHPD to have an office in a middle school. There is no reason for them to constantly speed down 2300 East or through my neighborhood on Nutree. Time to put some egos in check.

*Michael Hanson:* Thank you all for allowing citizens to share our thoughts in this section of the business session, I do believe that our elected officials need to have citizens input that can be part of public record as often as possible. I will simply request that you listen and take to heart our words. This medium is not by anyways convenient for any of us. Honestly, I wish I could be standing in front of you all and looking you in the eyes.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been pondering over our distressing national events and temperament of people and groups that are challenging our nation to further the depth of polarization. We all are so quick to sit and point fingers blaming whatever we can to support our personal agendas. It's disheartening and frankly painful to watch and listen to.

As you know, on June 15th a group lead out of my city's district organized a "rally" that was claimed to be peaceful, inspirational, and needed for Cottonwood Heights. I made it a point to wear my face covering and attend this rally for the sole reason to be a part of a historical event within my city.

Mayor and Council, have you ever heard the phrase "not in my backyard"? I am sure you have on multiple times, in these very chambers.

I have been approached by many friends and neighbors who asked the question, concerning this rally, Why? Why here in Cottonwood Heights? Why in my back yard? As we talk, the dialogue seems to be quite repetitive about how we strive to be good neighbors, to help others regardless of affinity, race, political party, education. So, I would like to pose the question to you. Why?

- Why did this peaceful rally fill our City Hall's Plaza with profanity written on signs to be advertised as a "family-friendly event"?
- Why were the "inspirational speakers" collected from many people that do not even reside within our city limits.
- Why we're participants privileged to take it upon themselves to destroy, deface, and steal property that was not theirs?
- Why were participants of this rally racing around in very loud vehicles screaming profanities?
- Why was there so much effort to bring the press to this event?

- Why is it that when we are constantly bombarded with political and social unrest that this type of event had to be placed at our city hall, in a city that is not perfect, however, contains a majority of citizens who want to help, understand and change in a civil respectful way.

These are just of the few questions I have heard from residents of our city. That evening I witnessed an interesting contrast on the same relatively small space, a very large group of support and respect for our officers comprised of my neighbors and fellow citizens. In contrast to the organized attendees displaying vulgar signs waived profanity not to mention the largely negative message that was delivered offering no real hope for people.

The organizers of this event should pat yourselves on the back because it did make national news. Interestingly enough the national news highlighted event with support and non-support gathered at the same place without any major incident. This being an excellent example of what outstanding citizens live in Cottonwood Heights. In relation to the inspirational speakers, with the exception of Carl Moore there was nothing family-friendly about any of the messages shared. So much negativity rang a message of division, hate, and rage, was distasteful and counterproductive to helping one another at a time when our neighbors need to be uplifted when we need to find ways collaborate with each other for positive and uplifting solutions that our community can participate in these troubling times we are all experiencing.

It's obvious that many citizens of this great city choose to live here, a majority of us share a profound and clear respect for our first responders, especially our Police. I was actually amazed by the outpouring of support that was peacefully displayed that evening before the "rally", and again a few days later as citizens from our city showed up in citizens comments with many letters to lend support to our officers, only to be shamed and discounted by my elected official for politicizing our city hall. As I listened to the many written comments drafted by citizens. It is apparent that our voices need to be heard and understood.

It is my challenge that you as our elected officials take a look at many of the examples around you, please consider the constituents that voted you into office, and listen to what we all have to say, not just those that you politically align with. These offices that you are elected to are to be respected as Non-Partisan. It is your sworn duty to budget and legislate leaving your personal agenda at home. If your personal convictions and political influence need to be voiced, please contact your State Senate or House representative, better yet, run for one of those offices that aligns with a particular political party.

I would never discount the importance of national social heartache and issues; however, we have appropriate forums for these issues and the politics that align with it. Please listen to your constituency base, respect us, and leave your agendas behind when you put on your City Council hat. It is time that the majority of the citizens be heard.

Holly Josephson: Can you please fund a sidewalk for Danish Road to connect Danish Cove to English Way...otherwise can you provide a temporary summer bump as cars drive very fast when I do yard work or go to the mailbox and it is dangerous and also for the hundreds of daily walkers. Also, my council member does not have a city voicemail... Is there a reason for this?

Gay Lynn Bennion: Thank you for considering many crucial topics today. I wish to address the LCC Environmental Impact Study and also police policy and training. Thanks to your important recordings of City Council meetings, we can all view last year's meeting and hear John Thomas of UDOT ensure our city that after many meetings and discussions, the speed limit along SR 210 between Ft. Union Blvd and Little Cottonwood Canyon would be 35 mph. He discussed the goal of making this road a "Gateway Facility", a roadway with "unique enhancements."

As I listen to feedback from citizens, 35 MPH for this section of Wasatch Boulevard is a high priority. It will lead to more cars taking Highland Drive or the freeway, which are great options. It will allow safety for bikers, pedestrians, and the community. Many people ask that before we invest millions of tax dollars in widening roads, we use traffic management to address the traffic congestion we experience mainly on snowy weekends. All comments I have heard from citizens strongly request the 35-mph speed limit and incentivizing the use of buses in our efforts for safety and air quality.

I am glad the Council is also addressing the importance of police policy and training tonight. Thank you for making clear in the CH Newsletter that our city and the Police Department do not accept hatred, bigotry, or violence. Thank you for providing our officers training in de-escalation and implicit bias. I applaud City Council members who bravely ask difficult questions that lead to efforts to improve an already strong and needed police force.

I approve of suggestions for a state level task force to investigate officers' use of force, making records of proven misconduct by officers more transparent and refunding the social safety net. We are fortunate to live in a safe and beautiful city. Let's move forward listening to the vast majority of our citizens who demand a low speed limit for Wasatch Blvd and who appreciate our police force and know improvement is always positive.

Jim Hutchins: I would like the following remarks read aloud during today's Cottonwood Heights City Council Meeting and entered into the public record on two different subjects.

RE: LCC EIS Wasatch Blvd Preferred Alternatives. Engineer a street that is neighborly and provides a feeling of arrival to one of the most spectacular canyons in the world 35 MPH.

RE: LaCaille Proposed Development. While not opposed per se to a gondola within Little Cottonwood Canyon, Cottonwood Heights City would do well to consider the lost tax revenues of having visitors buzz past Cottonwood Heights to park their car in the 1500 parking stalls associated with this project, and spending their money within Sandy city limits, Snowbird or Alta.

Bob Olsen: As a resident of Cottonwood Heights since 1966, I have always loved living here. My five children all went from first grade through 12 all graduating from Brighton HS. I have for many years served on the emergency preparedness group here. This has always been a very peaceful community. The introduction of those who would cause contention and seek to turn one group against another should not be welcome.

At the recent BLM demonstration, it was apparent that the aim was to do just that. There are for sure some well-intended among the group that has a real intent to put forth a message. That should



be welcome. However, there is an element associated with this group whose intention is not to improve but rather to cause problems. After the demonstration, the true nature of that element on display. Signs were stolen, signs were defaced and the banner was stolen. While it is possible, there is racism anywhere. This kind of behavior and calling entire groups racists is certainly not in the interest of progress for anyone.

*Michael Albrecht:* As you know from past correspondence and our virtual meeting, I had to deal with racial discrimination and misconduct coming out of the community, from unelected officials, and the Police Department for about a decade. You saw on June 15, in this small town, that racists and right-wing agitators wanted to silent and intimidate everyone who speaks up against them. Everything goes. No limits. Even the children of those who want to make Cottonwood Heights a better place for all are fair game as I had to experience myself and as it contributed to several suicide attempts of one of my sons of color. The nationwide protests that we see these days are directed against those who act like that, those who intimidate like that, and those whose corrupt personal interests cause devastation, personal injuries, and sometimes death. To date, the City has not cared. To date, we were alone. To date, City officials excused all misconduct by anyone in a leadership position in Cottonwood Heights because those officials were close to them.

Things only really started changing when Tali Bruce appeared on the local scene. You have to be a very brave woman to speak up against the good old buddy network. She did that. And now, she is facing a storm of protest by those whose entitlements start to shake. All of them are white.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, we saw an example of what it takes to dare to speak up in our little Cottonwood Heights during a peaceful protest for accountability, review, and more control by residents in policing affairs. Right-wing, huge flag raising, MAGA truck driving agitators were clearly trying to intimidate and silence the crowd, driving with high speed and great noise around the corner of 2300 East and Bengal Boulevard. That alone would be nothing new. What else is new? What was special and different about this is the fact that that happened right in front of the office of the Chief of Police and his department. It is unthinkable that that behavior was not condoned by the Police Department. As we learned, it became over the years normal that people are driven out of town or people's lives are being destroyed for no other reasons but requesting accountability or change, or due to personal preferences of individual officers. The establishment is entitled and does not want to change for as long as it can attack, hurt, and destroy those who speak up in order to silence them. The city has to decide if it is a city for the establishment or all residents.

We need a change in Cottonwood Heights. Under the establishment, Brighton High School became the local drug-hub and no one cared enough to change that. The local schools became a haven for drug dealers. A teacher from Butler Middle School has been reported to everyone in power as using drugs in the school building - for decades - and no one did anything, neither the school district nor the Police Department. The teacher was white. Children of color, her former students, are being chased through the neighborhood instead, based on allegations. The death of children and destroyed lives was never enough for anyone in the establishment. All that happens right across the street of the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. Shall we continue to be silent as the community suffers? As children in our community rather die than continue living among us? Do we have to look the other way and not talk about issues and where they come from? Who is benefiting from those devastated by the inaction of some?

Due to Tali, and the public discussion that she triggered, which coincides with national interests, that might change. The city needs voices like Tali even if the majority of its residents might be opposed to that because they rather cheer on the right-wing, huge flag raising, MAGA truck driving agitators who try to intimidate my children. The good news is that my children are not easily intimidated anymore. Traumatized kids can become quite headstrong teenagers.

Following the event on June 15, I told my 14-year-old that I do not want him to walk further away from home because there are a lot of crazy folks out there who would just love to show how strong they are towards a lone child of color. I told him to watch out because, given the times we live in, he has a target on his back. He responded with "Daddy, I was born with a target on my back," referring to the color of his skin. He is a born Utahn, living in Cottonwood Heights since he was half a year old. A statement like that after living his whole life in Cottonwood Heights. That did not come out of thin air. Voices like Tali's are democratic voices. Democracy can be loud, uncomfortable, or irritating.

Those who are opposed to such voices are opposed to the Constitution of the United States and the democracy America allegedly portrays. Those who are opposed to uncomfortable voices like that do not deserve my past service for the FBI Anti-Terrorism Unit.

*David Williams:* Thank you for enduring such a large volume of citizen input! Your service *and* seat time are appreciated! I also appreciate and support our Cottonwood Heights Police Department officers for their work in keeping order in our city and neighborhoods, and for the needed help they frequently bring to individuals and families. Valuing that service to us, I do not want to see their funding cut or reduced. Nor do I believe that anyone who has seriously thought-mental energy-about the consequences of not having police protection in our city wants to see funding cut or reduced-and that would include outsourcing the safety of our city to another remote government agency. (That a representative on this council at the June 16 meeting referred to me-and others holding this opinion-as a "white supremacist," only serves to support my opinion, since such name-calling is merely a screen for not having a well-thought-out or factually based counter opinion. Sticks and stones.)

Further, I believe all lives-equally and without regard to race, creed, color, gender, or *anything*-are sacred before God, and I oppose any inequality in law enforcement or laws in general based on any such differences. While acknowledging the challenges some of my fellow citizens may sometimes have with police, I appreciate how the Cottonwood Heights Police Department officers are trained in de-escalation procedures and the tremendous job they do at that. And while recognizing and appreciating the fine work the Cottonwood Heights Police do, I still support their efforts at continual evaluation and improvement of enforcement processes and police training.

That said, I believe positive law-enforcement improvements can be best achieved in an environment where police are not vilified because of the bad acts of a few offensive officers - the most recent egregious examples not even from our state.

Let's keep Cottonwood Heights safe for all citizens, regardless of race, by keeping our police well-funded and trained.

Robert Taylor: I understand that the traditional Butlerville Days festivities have been canceled for 2020. I am not complaining about that nor do I disagree with the decision that was made. I am a resident of Cottonwood Heights and as an aside, I am employed by Summit County as their Chief Building Official. I have been in public service for thirty-nine years and I am still a full-time employee of Summit County.

Let me simply say that I have an insight into public service that many others perhaps do not. I am a product of the state of Utah and I am proud of my heritage. My forefathers emigrated to this state and their names are indelibly stamped on places like Pleasant View, Taylor, New Harmony, Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Brigham City to name a few. I only mention this to reacquaint you to the pride in the shared ancestry (that I hope) we share and celebrate this time of year with our local Butlerville Days celebration. Butlerville Days needs to be more than a community/collective decision by 'professionals' (meaning doctors, lawyers, and insurance chiefs). I agree that the big crowd festivities need to be minimized or canceled. I do not disagree with your decision to cancel them.

On the other hand, our VOICE of CELEBRATION (our tribute to the sacrifice of our forefathers and our voice of appreciation for the freedoms which we enjoy and for which they sacrificed their lives) SHOULD NOT be silenced. We still need to have a fireworks display! Even if that means that we have to have an ambush display that is not announced to the public - and to which the public is not invited. Let's just wait until dark and start with a BIG BANG, followed by five minutes of fireworks (instead of 20) followed by a huge grand finale.

Most citizens of Cottonwood Heights will see it and will appreciate it. There will not be time for the crowds to collect. Especially, if the roads are sufficiently blocked and redirected at the right time. Pleasant View, Utah did just this thing this year and it was well-received by its citizens. It took courage for them to pull off this kind of a 'stunt'. I encourage Cottonwood Heights to have the courage to 'up' them in this matter.

As a descendent of Pleasant Green Taylor, I encourage you to beat him and the city that bears his name in this fireworks tribute. We don't need a flash mob and that is not what I am encouraging. We DO need to have a voice of tribute and celebration and I believe fireworks will say what we want to say most eloquently.

Jerry Engel: I am writing this letter in response to an email letter from David Williams, a resident of our city. The subject was the DEFUNDING of our CH Police Department. Ever since I heard this term following the recent SLC riot, I have wondered what it means. To DEFUND our Police Department sounds a little like siphoning the gas out of your car because the battery is dead. DEFUNDING sounds like someone's idea of solving a problem in a department by eliminating the resources needed for that department to function.

Be that as it may, I support our CHPD in its entirety. I have had only good experiences with the officers who work there. I have had issues with Brighton High School's illegal parking in front of my house and theft of property from my yard. Their response has always been prompt, efficient, and courteous. I feel that we are well served and protected by our CH Police Department. I desire that this letter be read at the July 7, 2020 City Council meeting.

Spencer Williams: As a citizen of Cottonwood Heights, I want all to know that I support the local police and believe any effort to “Defund” or otherwise inhibit the Police Department from doing its job would be an incredible disservice to the citizens of Cottonwood Heights, regardless of skin color. Just last month, I reached out to CHPD regarding a suspicious person on my property. We need to continue to support them so they can continue to support our community in making it a safe place for all of us, especially our children.

Kathleen Randall: I am requesting that this letter be read during the City Council Meeting Tuesday night, July 7, 2020. I am now and have been for nearly 50 years a resident of Cottonwood Heights in District 1. I do not agree with any defunding of police. If retraining or more education is needed to solve issues, it seems to me increased funding is what is necessary. With crime on the rise, police presence is a deterrent. It is comforting to me to see the police cars being driven past my home, patrolling out on the streets, and seeing officers helping people. I have had a few different issues that required police assistance and advice. I have been in safety classes taught by officers. I have watched as officers helped at schools. I have great respect for the heroes who put their lives on the line for us every day. I am grateful to each one of them for having the strength, courage, and desire to help us.

When I had been married for about a year and a half, my husband and I were driving back from a store with our infant daughter. A car pulled up by us and the people inside were being belligerent. They followed us home and drove into our garage next to our car. My husband told me to quickly go into the house with our baby and call the police. I think I recall there was no 911 at the time. I called the police. There was no answer. I called again. No answer. The people were very threatening to my husband in the garage and I was afraid they would seriously injure him or kill him. Thankfully, they settled down and left. We had no idea who they were or why they did what they did. I later learned that at the time we called the police it was a shift change and there wasn't anyone at the phone desk. That was a terrifying experience to have no access to help in our time of great need.

I believe that we all need to be treated fairly and that "black" and "white" and "red" and "yellow" and "brown" are adjectives that need to be erased from our thoughts and words when referring to humans. Color of skin or any other physical description should not enter in for any discrimination. Does it matter if we are black or white or brown if we commit a crime? Does it matter if we are LDS or Protestant or Catholic if we commit a crime? Does it matter if we are short or fat or tall or skinny if we commit a crime? I don't understand why these words need to be included in public descriptions other than to fuel racism, elitism, discrimination, and hate.

Please do not defund any police programs, officers, or equipment. They will be less educated, their hands will be tied, we will be less safe, response times will be longer, and our great community will not be such a wonderful place to live.

Jay Brown: I am a resident of Cottonwood Heights, where I have lived for 40 years. This is where my wife and I raised our five children. What follows is the text of an email that I sent all of the members of my family on June 14, 2020.

*I am forwarding the email below. It is about a counter-rally against a protest to defund our Police right here. In Cottonwood Heights! It's pretty hard for me to even believe that this kind of movement to defund the police has come home to roost right here! Right here in the hometown where you guys grew up!*

*Mom and I are planning to make some signs in support of law and order and in support of the police and attend the counter-rally. We would love your support and would be grateful if you would come and support us in this important time. Never before in my life have I seen a time where the threat to peace and order in our society was this great. The very fabric of our great country seems to be being needlessly torn asunder.*

*I believe that a small minority is counting on the rest of us to cower and do nothing while they attempt to take away our freedom and rights as they attempt to dramatically move our society towards Socialism. We raised you guys to respect the authority of properly elected officials to follow and enforce the laws that keep us safe. Change can and should occur in the legal duly chosen way thru elections, not insurrection. So far it seems that only the voices of the radicals are being heard. We all need to stand up and let our voices be heard as well. We Americans, and especially Utahns, are welcoming, loving people.*

*We open our hearts, homes, and lives to all others who share our respect for the rights of all. We do that willingly as long as they are willing to obey our laws and respect the boundaries that "we the people" have set. The police and military are the system "we the people" have put in place to allow and ensure our freedoms. There is no room for any lawless group who would disrupt and attempt to destroy our "best in the world" system!*

*I love you guys so much! I don't want some outside organizations whose stated goal on their website, the "disruption of the nuclear family" to be able to destroy ours!! God set up this system, and I think it is worth protecting! Please let me know your thoughts.*

*Dad*

All of my surviving children who live in Utah came back with their families to support our Police Department. In total there were Fourteen just from my family involved with hundreds of others in the peaceful show of support for our fine Police Department. All of the people at that "rally for support" that I spoke to were from Cottonwood Heights. My grandson went back to the later "defund rally" and spoke to several people. None of those were from Cottonwood Heights.

We DO NOT support efforts to defund our Police Department! I would request that Mayor Peterson and the City Council, particularly my Elected Council Member Douglas Petersen from District 1 where I live, to oppose efforts to defund the police. I further ask them to do all that they can to help and support the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. We want the police to continue to provide great services as they have been doing.

None of us are perfect. That includes our Police. But they try hard and succeed in keeping us safe. We enjoy a wonderful sense of security each and every day, and I thank them for their service from the bottom of my heart.

I would respectfully request that my letter be included in the next Council Meeting.

*Michael Barth:* I'm very concerned about the lawlessness that is running rampant throughout the country. But I'm grateful that our local Police Department is respectful and professional in their manner of enforcing the law. I'm grateful that we don't have to live in fear like many other communities. I attribute that fact 100% to our great Police Department and our City leaders who are not preventing them from doing their jobs.

I'm appalled by the push to defund the police. Especially since the worse rioting, looting, arson, and assaults on innocent bystanders are in cities that already UNDERFUND their Police Departments.

Please do not heed the call to defund the police. The people behind it are liars, plain, and simple. They don't care about any perceived injustice. They are hiding a dangerous agenda.

Here is an excerpt about crime statistics from an article written by Larry Elder:

([https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/columns/larry-elder-where-black-lives-matter-when-you-needthem/article\\_dae98758-d8e7-5339-9b4a-f34b6ba77ed8.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/columns/larry-elder-where-black-lives-matter-when-you-needthem/article_dae98758-d8e7-5339-9b4a-f34b6ba77ed8.html))

"There is no epidemic of racist cops killing black suspects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, police killings of blacks declined almost 80% from the late '60s through the 2010s, while police killings of whites have flatlined. Meanwhile, in 2017, according to the CDC's National Vital Statistics Reports, non-Hispanic blacks were eight times more likely to be a victim of a homicide (homicide death rate: 23.2 per 100,000) than non-Hispanic whites (homicide death rate: 2.9 per 100,000).

The No. 1 cause of preventable death for young white men is accidents, such as car accidents and drownings. The No. 1 reason for death, preventable or otherwise for young black men, is homicide, almost always at the hands of another young black man. In 2018, there were approximately 7,400 black homicide victims, more than half of the nation's total number of homicides, while the black population is 13% of the U.S. total. Of that number, the police killed a little more than 200 blacks, and nearly all of them had a weapon or violently resisted arrest.

In recent years, the police have averaged killing about 1,000 Americans per year. Of that number, half are white and one-quarter are black, with the race of remaining suspects of another race or unknown. Of the approximately 1,000 killed by cops, less than 4% involve a white officer and an unarmed black man.

Recent studies not only find no systemic abuse of black suspects by the cops but if anything, cops are more hesitant, more reluctant, to use deadly force against a black suspect than against a white suspect. The Manhattan Institute's Heather MacDonald writes: "Regarding threats to blacks from the police: A police officer is 18.5 times more likely to be killed by a black male than an unarmed black male is to be killed by a police officer." Last year, according to The Washington Post, the police killed nine unarmed blacks. They killed 19 unarmed whites. In recent years, about 50 cops have been shot and killed annually in the line of duty. So, more cops are killed each year than are unarmed black suspects."

P.S. I listened to the last meeting's recording. Why does Tali Bruce think she is representing her constituents by being anti-police? She should be ashamed of herself.

Kevin Gunnell: I participated in the recent support rally for our Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I was proud to watch as fellow citizens came together to voice their support for a common cause, to unite in showing support for our local police presence. I recognize and embrace the right of those with opposing viewpoints to be able to make their voices heard, and I'm glad the events of that date occurred without incident.

Like others who were there, I believe a local police force is an important and critical part of maintaining a peaceful atmosphere for all people in our city. I also believe such a force should be carefully maintained, with high expectations of conduct and professionalism. We should expect nothing less than excellence.

However, I was stunned to listen to the discussion in the June 16 Cottonwood Heights City Council Meeting and hear Representative Tali Bruce mention she "heard my white supremacy". If that's what she heard from me raising my voice to support my cause, then she heard but clearly didn't listen. To deliberately use such inflammatory language in grossly misrepresenting those with opposing viewpoints—including some of her constituents—is a repulsive abuse of her position. In the future, I hope she will not misrepresent me with a manipulative narrative.

Ken Olsen: I hope this email finds Charlene, your family, and you all well and safe. Jill and I are so grateful for your willingness to serve this wonderful community in which we have lived for 30+ years.

One of the many things we love about Cottonwood Heights is our local Police Department. We support them 100% and we would frankly beg you (and Doug) to resist any attempt to divert or reduce their funding without a slow, thoughtful, transparent, and community inclusive process. I have no doubt that nationwide there are situations where people do not receive equal treatment from some police based on the color of the skin, and I will concede I cannot say that has never happened in our community. I am horrified by the thought of any discrimination based on skin color, and I agree we need to make some changes and do much better as a society. But I also believe that the vast majority of police are good men and women, do not discriminate, and they are trying their very best to do a challenging, stressful, and dangerous job.

I have no doubt my feelings expressed above represent the majority of Cottonwood Heights voters and residents. We do not have to choose sides with this issue. As a society let's work together to figure out how to stop the horrible discrimination we have been reading about and fund underlying and underfunded social services that will help communities, but we must also always stay focused on the basic concept of public safety.

Joyce Sibbett: As a member of the Cottonwood Heights community, I would like to comment in support of the strong effort that Council Woman Tali Bruce has made to change some policies. Transparency and accountability are ethics that should be upheld in all agencies. I would like to call for transparency that would promote 3rd party review of policing systems, including a database and federal oversight.

These standards of transparency would help us maintain integrity to make sure that our police force could only use deadly force as a last resort. We could be sure that no chokeholds would be allowed. Body cameras should always be on. If they are not on, the Police Department should mandate an independent review from a source outside of the police force. When hiring officers, resumes should be publicly posted, and any report of malfeasance should be made public. I also hope that we could promote an effort to hire more persons of color and females.

I am grateful for citizens who become trained to be police officers. They are desperately needed in our society. I write this email to applaud those officers who adhere to high standards that promote public safety. This email is not intended to undermine these public servants in any way. Nevertheless, there are individuals on the police force who create problems for citizens who have not been proven guilty of any crimes. I would hope to make such officers accountable for inappropriate actions.

Please consider my comments for policy changes in the Cottonwood Heights Police Force.

Rochelle Kaplan: As a civically-minded citizen I believe that:

- 1) A patriotic citizen can support police reform and Black Lives Matter. This is not an either/or proposition. Police reforms suggested by BLM but also by many other groups, including those in law enforcement include the following reasonable reforms: better data collection; a ban on chokeholds and limiting the use of force; ongoing training in de-escalation techniques and implicit bias; the increased use and funding of services like social workers, domestic abuse counselors, drug abuse experts so that police can concentrate on reducing crime; ending the arresting of people (especially of color) for minor offenses like a broken tail light; demilitarization of the police; use of body cams; community oversight and representation; independent investigations of police misconduct; fair police union contracts that don't grant unprofessional policemen/women broad immunity; an end of for-profit policing (including excessive bail and additional penalties for being late with fines). I suggest looking at Campaign Zero.org, as a place to start. Even if the mayor and City Council members don't agree with all the reforms, surely, we can find common ground on some of them. I am glad that the Cottonwood Heights Police Dept. already has undertaken some of these reforms and that Mayor Peterson sounds committed to further improvements and to listening to and learning from all viewpoints.
- 2) I was at the rally at CH City Hall. Both groups were polite, respectful, and peaceful. There were a few signs that used vulgarity, but these were isolated. There was no defacing of any signs or theft that I am aware of, as one person claims, and I was there the entire time. I found the speakers for BLM to be eloquent on the history of policing in the American South (which started as a way to bring back fugitive slaves and moved on to enforce segregation), on American history in general regarding unfair treatment of African-Americans, and on the support of good law enforcement officers including in CH - while also asking for sensible reforms. The speakers included some living in Cottonwood Heights and some from other nearby



communities. Ms. D. Mackintosh, a Cottonwood Heights citizen whom I don't know, wrote an inflammatory email that I received today from a neighbor. Ms. Mackintosh wrote that BLM has a "message of violence, erasing our history-which many of them know nothing about, eradicating law and order and our Constitution... and changing us into a socialistic world order." Ms. Mackintosh encouraged those she sent the email to, to forward it to neighbors, and to write to the City Council regarding the rallies. These letters will be read at the July 7 City Council Meeting. This is one reason I am writing and why my husband and I plan to attend on July 7.

- 3) There are many books and articles on the history of our nation's unjust treatment of African Americans. Some examples: The Homestead Act of 1862 gave free land to Caucasians but excluded blacks. Blacks freed from slavery got no free land and so were unable to accumulate capital; additionally, they had been forbidden to learn to read - further hampering their opportunities. Until the recent Tulsa campaign rally, I was unaware of the Greenwood massacre in 1921. I have learned of other similar horrors, in which no perpetrators were held accountable. Segregation continued and continues through redlining. Although African Americans fought for the US in both WWI and WWII (in segregated units), they faced segregation and racism when they returned. I learned that when Nat King Cole came to SLC to entertain, he was barred from staying in downtown hotels and so was put up by the prior Greek owner of the house I lived in, in Cottonwood Heights when I first moved here. Blacks were restricted from most hotels and restaurants, from swimming pools, bowling alleys, and skating rinks. Lagoon was off-limits to blacks until the mid-1950s. Besides Nat King Cole, Marion Anderson, Ella Fitzgerald, and Harry Belafonte had a hard time finding a hotel they could sleep in or a restaurant they could eat in - although their performances at the Tabernacle, Lagoon and other places were sold out. It wasn't until the late 1940s that Utah cities dropped laws that segregated swimming pools. And it wasn't till 1956 that Utah granted suffrage to Native Americans. As a retired high school history teacher who worked with minorities in both NYC and Salt Lake County, I seek accurate information. We all need to learn history thoroughly, warts and all, and atone, even today, for the legacy of hundreds of years of discrimination. I am aware of the privilege my being born white confers and am also aware of the unequal treatment my recent ancestors received because they were Jewish. We should strive to achieve justice for all and encourage civility. I believe it is time for all Americans, including those living in or working in Cottonwood Heights, to recognize our complete past and to listen respectfully to those who have been marginalized. Citizens can, and should, in my view, support both Black Lives Matter and police reform.

Ken Garner: My name is Ken Garner, Professional Engineer, resident in Cottonwood Heights. I would like this statement read at the City Council business meeting on July 7, 2020. I would like to say that I support police reform. Improving our police and changing the way they interact with day to day citizens and creating better accountability is exactly what we need. Many professions have had accountability added over the years, it has been a growing movement for the highest quality, highest service, and highest accountability. It is high time that our police be taught to

serve better, to engage in quality assurance and accountability that other professions have. Recently there was a citizen rally where many in our city came together to learn and to throw support behind the idea of police reform. This was an amazing event, with many experts invited to speak. It was peacefully organized, and many comments of support were read in the last Business Meeting for Councilwoman Tali Bruce, whose friends organized the event. Tali recognizes that many in our city and the wider community have suffered under the hands of the police, yes, even under the Cottonwood Heights Police Department.

Nationally, Black Lives Matters (“BLM”) support has surged. Our city is no different, we have a large number of residents who stand behind our minorities and for equal treatment. You, as the City Council, represent all of us, including those that support BLM and our minority friends and neighbors. Councilman Doug Peterson last business meeting appeared to be angry, said he was “disappointed” with Councilwoman Bruce, for bringing this “Element” to our city. I am here to say to Doug Peterson, that using that overused term is degrading and offensive. Historically it has been used by privileged white homeowners to describe and reject apartment renters “who may bring crime”, it is used to describe the homeless, and it is used to describe our minority residents, to describe unwelcome people. It creates separation and does not treat people equally. I am tired of people using this horrible phrase. It should never be uttered by a City Councilman, whose City and District includes minorities, the poor, and rent payers. These people are part of our city. I am offended to hear Mr. Peterson describe people of our city as an “Element” in such a hateful and angry tone. Mr. Peterson, that so-called element is a very diverse electorate that is already here. I am one of that stands behind them. Mr. Peterson, you should be ashamed and should apologize to the residents of this city, to me, and especially to Ms. Bruce for publicly berating her.

I would like to address the police and supporters including city employees who took part in the police support rally and commented at the last meeting. Many were under the impression that the reformers were trying to “defund” the police, as that has been an issue in other areas. The official literature and speakers at our event did not say anything about defunding the police.

I was frankly displeased about the timing of the police support rally. It was chosen a bit earlier to counter and intimidate the reform protestors. They could have chosen the day after, or a week later, and still showed amazing support for the police. The city building was used to hang “We Love our police” posters and signs, on the interior. It appeared very much that the entire Police Department, and many city employees, participated in the police support rally and it appears that by using the building windows as a decoration that the city organization endorsed and took a stand to support the police and rally against the ideas of reform before any ideas were even considered.

The city employees allowed the decorations to be placed on the interior of the windows before the event. Why would our city permit and encourage overlapping protests that create conflict in the exact same location? This is dangerous and should not be permitted in the future. At the very least, create separate areas under a city permit for counter-protestors.

It is easy when you work day by day with the police to say, “we have the best Police Department!” and to take pride in them. But residents see the officers one on one, not as friends, but as a new encounter with a strange officer that has power over them. The city should look beyond work friendship, and ask yourselves and the residents are there ways to improve? Are there ways to be

more efficient? Your taxpayers are demanding it. City employees and the council should listen to all residents before they summarily pass judgment. The city should study reform ideas before summarily rejecting reform ideas.

Accountability should be more than just financial. It comes down to finding out what individual officers are doing when alone with the public, both good things, and bad things, and having a process for improvement. When an officer comes to work with a community member, that service is a measurable transaction, but only if you allow and encourage measurement. You must have data if you are to improve. In that transaction, if something goes wrong, it is hard to complain about someone who has power over you to someone even more powerful such as the police chief, especially when you suspect that they might protect their own. We now have residents who just avoid calling the police, because of fear or because they don't believe the police will help. And most fear their complaints would fall on deaf ears. Is that "Solving the Problem"?

Please seriously consider all of the police reforms on the table. Please instigate a web-based police complaint system, along with a web-based police "good job" praise system. Base pay increases not on the cost of living, but on merit proven by a system of quality service measurements. Residents should be encouraged to report both good and bad and could rate their interactions with the police, and those in positions of power in the city can see the good and bad. Report those rating numbers to the city manager, City Council, and a citizen's review board. Don't just have the police chief report that the department services so many crime calls or accidents and made the problems go away, actually report the level of satisfaction of the city residents, which crimes received evidence that was forwarded up for justice, which crimes, and the percentage that were solved, which officers' residents were pleased with, and which officers' residents complained about. Find ways to report when officers screw up and create a way to retrain, reprimand, demote, and/or fire the bad apples when they do wrong. Only with resident feedback (the customers) that goes up the chain beyond the Police Department will all officers care about doing a truly good job every day they serve.

I truly believe that customer service is taught and reinforced by leadership. Create a leadership team of our Police Department that cares about constant improvement, not just about defending the status quo. Create a team dedicated to truly serve all residents, not just make the problem go away. And a final note about Councilwoman Bruce, who for the past couple of years has engaged and listened to her constituents like I have never experienced before in my 55 years living under city government. She has rightly questioned police expenditures as part of her official City Council duties and as requested by her constituents. I have heard several residents tell her they are concerned about our Police Department. Others just concerned about the expensive new police cars and trucks our officers drive (me included), and the expensive city hall that we financed that has a large portion dedicated to the Police Department with huge square footage and a huge mortgage, or the high salaries that we payout to our officers. Many complaints came forward with the Police Chief receiving a 13% increase in pay pushed before a formal review of the New City Manager, which was immediately after a large tax increase that included a more modest 3% cost of living adjustment budgeted for most city employees.

We were concerned that others could not get their full raise, or that taxes would go up again, all due to such a rushed decision. Ms. Bruce at our residents' urging asked for accountability on salary

data, and Mr. Tingey subsequently made comparisons to similar-sized cities around the valley. Ms. Bruce brought us all the report numbers, and my perceptions were a bit off base and were corrected by that information. I thank Mr. Tingey for doing that research, it allows for better financial budgeting decisions. Similarly, Mr. Tingey has passed along an explanation of police leasing and negotiating good deals. I don't completely agree with two-year leases on every police vehicle, and I believe we can negotiate better deals with longer leases, and for a portion of city vehicles that are less expensive and less damaging to the environment, but I do appreciate the focus of understanding created by asking questions and our city manager following through. It is exactly what we voted in Ms. Bruce to do. I am proud to call Tali Bruce my representative, she represents the best in a public servant and sets an example for the other councilmembers of true concern for her taxpayers she represents.

Kristen Miklos: I listened carefully to an excerpt from your Council Meeting of June 16, 2020 posted on YouTube. I feel that I need to address some of the comments I heard from Councilwoman Bruce.

First, she stated that "the nation needs to heal", and she "has never seen the nation so divided"-yet she herself created divide and disharmony in our own community when she brought outside protesters here to support her personal agenda and narrative.

She talked about our "fantastic officers", how much she appreciates them and her "heart goes out to them." This was obviously nothing but lip service as she demonstrated just the opposite by leading a protest against them.

It concerns me that Councilwoman Bruce would be so "offended" (a word she uses liberally) by signs placed around police HQ that were supportive of our officers. I fail to see how it "politicized" the police. Those signs were nothing more than a show of appreciation to those who risk their lives every day to protect us. It makes people happy to show their support in a tangible way. I find it very telling that the protest group she invited would childishly tear them down.

Lastly, if anyone should be offended, it is the citizens of whom she collectively said, "I could hear their white supremacy" because they wanted to enthusiastically show their support for the Police Department.

To Councilwoman Bruce: You don't know many of us, obviously. But I know you understand that calling people racist in today's world is the quickest way to shut down those with whom you disagree. Please don't stoop to that tired, knee-jerk response. It's lazy, it isn't true, and we're tired of it.

We are simply citizens of Cottonwood Heights who try to be good neighbors and support our police. We expect our City Council to reflect that.

Debbie McIntosh: The times we are living are pushing us all to evaluate ourselves. Buried emotions coming to the surface. Our great opportunity here is to heal ourselves, families, cities, and nation. We all have things we can change ourselves and do better.

1. I have read Council Woman Bruce has a personal vendetta for our PD and Chief Russo. If so, I question this action to undermine the very people she was elected to work with. Procedures are in place to deal with grievances, personal, or community. Our City Council's duty is to use proper channels concerning differences of opinion.
2. She invited the BLM Protests to our city The BLM agenda and mission statement does not represent CH. As Council Woman of CH, isn't she there to represent all of CH? Is it appropriate for anyone in her position to align themselves with any political group? What about neutrality? CH doesn't have many of the issues being protested about. We have a very diverse and respectful citizenry and elected officials.
3. I have lived here for over 50 years. CHPD are good men and women. We need more of them, not fewer, pay them more, not less. Add to their resources. Their lives are on the line EVERY DAY. They Keep Law and Order in our cities or destruction and chaos reigns. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights are based on Law and Order.
4. The mindset of entitlement exists now which muddies the water. For anyone to endorse criminal behavior is destructive on every level. The political message I heard from some of the BLM speakers and protesters elevated criminal behavior. Some things they said I could agree on, however, there seemed to be a one way forward the only message and I find that difficult to get behind. It felt divisive. Every city has its own challenges and strengths. Our focus should be to fine-tune what works for our city. I like the idea of listening and sharing, so valuable. I had a few good conversations with a few BLM protesters, we agreed on more than not. Sad that COVID is dividing us further.
5. CH Citizen's Academy sponsored and taught by CHPD is amazing! I want to thank the city for funding it. Everyone should take it, as it opens eyes to the dangers and troubling circumstances police officers deal with in an instant every day. Our police train continually. They should be cheered! What about their families? What about the dangerous circumstances they get thrown into every day because of other's choices?
6. Black families have been hurt by cruel agendas and people in high places. Many untruths are being told about them and our recent American History. For every sad story we are hearing of oppression, there are many more great stories of success.
7. Very sad to see kneeling during the pledge or national anthem. It is divisive and takes away from our moment of unity. Can't we all stand together during that brief moment in gratitude and honor for our great blessings? Many lives sacrificed for the love of country, freedom, unity, and justice to thank God for his rich blessing of raising all of our predecessors from bondage to have Religious Freedom, the Right to Choose/Accountability, Liberty, Freedom, Justice for all. The USA is the

greatest blessing to the entire world. We have come a long way and are still a work in progress. For success, *stay neutral and work together. Go through the process.*

Lisa Goodman: I am writing to let you know I am pleased with our Cottonwood Heights Police Department and feel they are doing a great job. They have been more than kind when responding to help. I am NOT happy with Councilwoman Tali Bruce for causing a division in our community. All lives matter, not just black lives. Black Lives Matter is an extreme organization that does not reflect my views or values. Why are we promoting division? I hope the public can wake up at election time and elect Council People that reflect our community. I would like this read in the City Council Meeting this week.

I appreciate all you do for our community and appreciate the service your render.

Scott Bell: I support local and State Police Departments. Having said that, no organization is immune from rogue and sometimes criminal elements, whether it is lawyers, clergy, scouts, private companies, non-profits, police, or any other. If a county treasurer embezzles, that is a crime and he or she should be held legally accountable. The police are no different. If a police officer commits a criminal act, he or she should be held accountable. No one is above the law, regardless of title or position. Perhaps not criminal but just as troubling is systematic bias by police. All of us have biases – every single one of us. It is human nature, and we often don't even recognize it in ourselves. In policing, the only way we can know is to track police-civilian interactions and to be transparent about it. I request the CHPD implement a system of tagging every police report with a checkbox on race. Was the suspect or complainant or traffic violator of a particular ethnicity? I further request the statistics of police-civilian interactions with respect to race be made public as soon as possible, updated, say, every 24 hours.

I'm not accusing the CHPD of systematic bias. I don't know if it exists or not. But CH might be surprised by the statistics it compiles. If bias does exist, CH would want to know. After all, the city and its Police Department are committed to serving and protecting all of its citizens.

Vickie Fullmer: We are 26-year residents of Cottonwood Heights. Up until Tali Bruce came along we were happy members of the community. She came into her position on a false platform. While she was running for District 3, she never talked about police reform. She obviously had a hidden agenda since this has been her main objective since being elected. She immediately attacked the Police force and specifically the Police Chief.

Since being elected Ms. Bruce has brought a feeling of hostility and divisiveness. Instead of bringing people together, she tends to bring hostility and disagreement between Cottonwood Heights citizens. We have seen firsthand what our city was like before this current Police Department. The recent protest that she supported was negative and attacked the government, Police Department, and general Cottonwood Heights residents.

Since our Police Department has taken over, we have seen a decrease in crime in our neighborhood and around our city. We have seen faster response times to calls. We have seen better support than we've ever had with the County Sheriff. Chief Russo and the whole Police Department have

100% of our backing and full support. We are embarrassed at the harassment they have seen in the past few years.

Jim Kitches: Apologies, I caught some typos. Here is my corrected comment:

I would like to reiterate my support of Councilwoman Tali Bruce and ask the Council to give serious consideration to the following police reforms for our community:

1. The creation by ordinance of a Citizen Review Board that (like Salt Lake City) audits and reviews citizen complaints regarding police conduct and provides periodic reports and recommendations.
2. Transparent and specific police guidelines and best practices for the use of force.
3. No qualified immunity for any officer that is found guilty of violating individual civil rights.
4. A specific and explicit prohibition on city/police participation in the federal LESO 1033 Program.
5. Audit and ongoing review of police services and budget with funding reallocated as needed and appropriate to better support counseling, mental health services, victim advocate services, and any other possible areas that currently fall within the overly broad scope of police services.
6. Enhanced and expanded outreach and advocacy services by the Police Department. The citizens of the city should know who our officers are outside of regular (often stressful) citizen/police interactions.

Kimberly Kraan: After reading the police chief is suing our city government and Councilperson Tali Bruce, it appears Mr. Russo is using his position to derail Ms. Bruce's attempt to bring forth transparency and accountability in our city. I find there to be a conflict of interest in having an active Police Chief both serving and suing our city. It is clear to the community members that Mr. Russo has long earned his questionable reputation prior to Ms. Bruce taking office as a council district representative. Simply Google search his name with Cottonwood Heights police and a string of issues will result. The instances of miscellaneous police misconduct under Russo's leadership of the CHPD dept: harassing local business owners, internal sexual harassment, prying into medical records in violation HIPA act, etc., proceeded Ms. Bruce's time on council. It is unfortunate, but no unexpected that Mr. Russo has allowed his ego to get in the way of objectivity in his police work.

Please answer as to how community members to be assured there is trust in the police force, contracted to serve our city, when they are concurrently actively suing our City Council, Ms. Tali Bruce council member, and 10 unnamed John does? One can only speculate from past history, that it appears Mr. Russo will not be able to objectivity uphold duties of his current position as Chief of Police during an open lawsuit that he personally placed against our city. He has a past history of presenting lawsuit at his former employer, when he was removed from office/suspended

for violating protocol, under former SL County police force (under Winder, 2007-2010). Can our city afford 3+ years of litigation? Mr. Russo is no stranger to litigation, his formed ongoing litigation dragged over into his years with CHPD. For these reasons, I strongly encourage our city to place Mr. Russo on Administrative leave until such time as a lawsuit/settlement has resolved in this matter.

"The agreement between Russo's and Winder's attorneys - fleshed out minutes before the scheduled merit commission hearing - detailed Russo dropping his civil-rights claim against the county in exchange for Winder purging disciplinary letters from his personnel file." [SLC Trib, Nov 2010].

Ms. Bruce has been well received, not only by those in her district but also by those residing outside her district, as she sees the community as a whole. We are not divided; we are Cottonwood Heights. We expect no less than that of our all civic leadership, to promote policies for the health, safety, and welfare of its community members, and above strive for transparency and accountability in civic leadership positions. Ms. Bruce has met the mark, whereas others on the Council fall short, she seems to be the only one willing to stand to uphold those principles.

Per the discussion above, I also support Police reform, the use of body cams, and de-escalation training. We can do better, each and every one of us, whether as civic leaders, contracted agents of the city, or community members. And, finally, requesting Council to take a hard look at our city's future. Mayor Peterson is in support of UDOT and CWC agendas to blast six lanes of road through our city on Wasatch Blvd/Sr 210. UDOT money-driven agendas are not aligned with city master plans nor community needs. The community has been dragged along for 2+ years on Wasatch improvement project plans, only to recently witness UDOT turn a 180 degrees to present a 6-lane highway solution that "LEADS TO NOWHERE!". We urge and demand the Mayor and council to place community needs above those of UDT's obvious and blatant grab for money.

Carter Childers: This message is to support the Cottonwood Heights Police Department and the men and women serving us on the department. I respect and appreciate the work they do enforce our laws and providing the safe community we all enjoy. I strongly oppose the idea of arbitrarily defunding, or diminishing, the resources available to the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. Only criminals, anarchists, or persons who have never known crime would support the notion of minimizing the current condition of our public safety and law enforcement.

No person, or organization, is perfect, but finding solutions and making improvements is rarely as simple as merely adding or subtracting dollars.

Gene Wooldridge: I am E. R. Wooldridge (Gray) The firstborn of 7 and lived 3/4 of my 65 years in the Salt Lake valley; My mother was the 2nd generation of Swiss immigrants and LDS, my father was Cherokee and Catholic. I claim no church! I have stood on every major peak in the Wasatch. I attended the U of U. I learned to ski at Brighton and rock climb on Storm mountain. I have lived in 5 states. I have worked in 16 states and 4 countries. I've seen incredible beauty and some of the most ugly things on earth. I am an observer. In South Carolina, I clearly remember the day my childhood ended just 1 week after my 6th birthday!!! I had committed my first mortal sin. My punishment at the hand of an older child under the direction of his mother resulted in



multiple bruises a fractured skull and as I learned 22 years later the inability to ever father a child. My transgression - I had been seen in the company of a child of color. I thank the police for saving my father's life that day as had they not arrived first and fore their intervention my father would have also been lost. There is absolutely no doubt he would have murdered their entire family. When I was young the police were hero's and they still are!!!

Police have the most dangerous job in the world risking life and limb every day of the year protecting law and order. Police are the most noble, caring, committed members, of our society! These are the best people to be role models for our youth and deserve our fullest support. Those self-entitled individuals that refuse to live by the basic rules that make society possible are fostering hate and contempt for law and order. These same people believe that only their vote counts. They are hate mongers. They pollute our children, throw tantrums, and destroy innocent lives for a spot in the limelight. It deeply saddens me to see this cancerous element in our local government and in our community. Not just criminals, ALL LIVES MATTER!!! I for one think it is damn well time to not only support but to embrace the noble folks working every day to keep us safe. Please increase funding to our Police Department that more good people may share in standing strong for our community's safety and survival. I plea that our community come together and stand for the values that made this country the most diverse and greatest in the world.

John Hammond: I can't believe at this time that anyone on the Cottonwood Heights City Council would even consider taking any money away from our Police Department. Especially after watching what is happening around the country. If anything, we should be increasing their funding and giving all of them raises. Our police for Cottonwood Heights do a wonderful job and we should be grateful for their sacrifice and service. They really care about our city and the citizens in it. All of this doesn't happen by accident. It is because they have a good leader at the top, Chief Russo. He does an excellent job and has worked hard to make sure we have one of the best police units in the Salt Lake valley. I do not know Chief Russo personally, but every time I have had interactions with him, he has been extremely professional, very giving to the community, and noticeably good and caring to the men and women that he commands.

The last thing I would like to say is Tali Bruce you are an embarrassment to our community. You have had an ax to grind with Chief Russo and our police force from the moment you were elected to office. The majority of our community really appreciates our police force and wants them to continue with the amazing service they provide and the wonderful leadership from Chief Russo. If this isn't to your liking Tali Bruce then resign and move to some city that wants to defund their police force.

Frank Smith: I would like to express my full support to our Police Department and my opposition to defunding them. I hope that cool heads will prevail as you discuss options for these times. It is a time to act and not to react to the troubling events we have recently experienced.

While I do not support defunding, I do support transparency, training, and accountability for our officers that put their lives on the line and make our community a better, safer place to live. There are already good examples of how we would suffer as a community if we took the radical step of defunding. Please learn from the mistakes of other communities who have reacted to the tragic recent events.

Luann Levitt: I want to write to you to express my gratitude for our Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I am concerned at the outrage and unruly behavior that some of our citizens are expressing toward our police not only in our community but throughout the country. It is very concerning that we do not appreciate the daily sacrifice made on behalf of our police to keep our communities safe. I am also concerned that the citizens that are creating all of this chaos have yet to provide any solutions to their outrage.

Have they stopped to think that when that intruder comes to their front door, who they will call? They seem to only want to be angry without having dialogue to come up with solutions. In fact, they do not seem to want to engage in any civil dialogue to solve any of the issues they are feeling. I have visited other countries where the police force is not a community entity. They can be bought and are corrupt. We cannot judge our entire police force based on a few, that when put in an extremely stressful situation, make bad decisions.

I would hate to see our community politicize such serious allegations into the non-support of our community's peacekeepers.

If anything, more support would be needed to provide additional training in handling escalated situations with our community members. I also want to express that even though this group may be the loudest, they do not represent the majority of Cottonwood Heights citizens. That is not who "we" are! We support and appreciate our police officers and the daily sacrifice they make to keep the peace in our community.

I would ask those angry, frustrated, and emotional citizens of our community to step to the table and civilly express any possible solutions to problems they personally have experienced with our Police Department. I would guess that if the Department were aware of personal experiences (not hearsay) they would be able to address the issue and solve it within a short matter of time without media attention. Using the media to make us afraid is not solving the problem. Step to the table and let's talk. Having been in a leadership position, I know how difficult it is to solve problems when citizens are not willing to identify themselves or come to the table to discuss it with possible solutions. To those citizens escalating this situation through your anti-police rallies and media exploits - what is your solution to no Police Department in Cottonwood Heights. Are you going to come to my home and get that intruder?

I have lived in Cottonwood Heights my entire life. It is one of the greatest communities I have ever been associated with and I think as citizens we need to rise above the hate and make our community the example to all others around us. Let's show everyone that we can work together and strengthen what we have! Police Officers, Educators, Community Council Members, Mayor, and even our neighbors. One good deed a day is a great way to begin.

We have become a society of hate and anger. No one is perfect but we all have good. Let's stop focusing on the negative, find the positive, and build together from there. The only way we can grow is to work together, build each other, communicate, find common ground, and make our community even better.

Kathie Keeler: Utah has a proud history of doing the right thing. Today Governor Herbert addressed police brutality by banning police chokeholds and racism by elevating multicultural leaders. Yesterday the Salt Lake City police banned chokeholds and the use of tear gas. All across the country, people are being educated about the long history of systemic brutality and racism of police throughout the nation. In stark contrast to all the progress being made, Trump, always divisive, threatened to ‘take back’ Seattle. His admonishment to both the military and the police to “Solve the Problem” is a call to even more brutality.

Chief Russo put "Solve the Problem" on every CHPD vehicle. Chief Russo is "Exhibit A" of what is wrong with policing in America today with his patterns of harassment, spying on political activists, and lack of accountability.

If problems are to be solved, everyone must participate in an effort dedicated to promoting safety within our community and within law enforcement by addressing racism within the Cottonwood Heights Police Department and ensuring that contracts do not evade legitimate accountability.

The Police Can't Solve the Problem. They Are the Problem. A “Solve the Problem” motto on every police car is a setup for a negative interaction, particularly in today’s charged political climate. It encourages a Trump-like escalation of the problem, not a true problem-solving scenario.

Chrissy Norton: With all that has been going on, I thought it was important to send a quick note to say we love the Cottonwood Heights Police, we appreciate all you do to keep us safe and we think it’s important you know how we really feel!

Chris Patch: I’m a husband, a father of four, and now after a recent theft that we experienced, I’m a HUGE fan of Detective Griffith and the CHPD!!!

Recently, while on a date hiking in Ferguson Canyon, our daughter Lily’s purse and all of its contents, including her brand new iPhone 10, was stolen out of her dates care..., which was locked and parked at the trailhead parking, in the Top of the World neighborhood.

Lily called my wife and I immediately upon returning to the car and finding the break-in and we then reported it to our CU, AT&T, and CHPD. Needless to say, we all felt victimized and very upset and frustrated with this theft!

The thieves drained \$100+ off Lily’s debit card before we got it locked up. But fortunately, the CU and Visa were able to refund that amount in the days that followed. Additionally, Lily had house keys and her scooter keys in the purse, so we had to have both of those rekeyed as well. But the phone was the big-ticket item for us. The iPhone 10 was Lily’s high school graduation gift and the actual first non-hand me down phone that she’s ever had. And so, she was pretty sad having to revert to her old, glitchy, cracked screen hand me down phone.

But..., on the following day and the days to come, we met with and spoke with Detective Griffith from CHPD several times. And may I just say that I was blown away by the detective’s great efforts!! He immediately went to work speaking with our CU, Holiday Oil, and 7-11 chasing POS

transactions and surveillance footage. And then, 2 weeks into this little investigation, he calls saying that he found the phone in Kentucky, of all places and it was being sent back to Utah. KENTUCKY?? And then 2 days later, he stopped by the house to personally return the phone to us. The phone is still in perfect condition. We've been able to restore the data and our Lily is absolutely over the moon and on cloud 9!!

Manager Tingey..., in all sincerity, I really believe that it's the little things in this life that matter most! But I also believe that they're taken for granted the most because they're so seemingly insignificant and often get overlooked.

So, when we reported the purse and phone stolen, I seriously had reassigned my hopes and had written the whole thing off, chalking it up to bad luck. A similar experience with CHPD's predecessor had set my expectations low. But I am so grateful to report that Detective Griffith with the CHPD handled our "little thing" like someone who really cares about the "little things" too! He probably didn't have to put this much effort into our "little" case., and no one would have been the wiser. But he totally did. And because of his determination and integrity, our family and especially our Lily, are absolutely thrilled and so extremely grateful that he cared about the little things!

Anyway, Manager Tingey, we've just been super impressed and super grateful for all of Detective Griffith and CHPD's efforts! Detective Griffith has been very diligent and caring with our "little" case and so I think it's altogether fitting and proper that I try to reciprocate by letting you know how incredibly grateful appreciative and thankful the Patch Family is for Detective Griffith and the Cottonwood Heights Police Department.

Mark Lundquist: We are so grateful for the Cottonwood Heights City Police Department, and totally support all that the force does for our safety and community. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude and support.

We are new to Utah and just moved here about 8 months ago and are so comfortable with our tight community. The citizens and neighbors are just amazing, kind, and helpful, we love it here and know it's this way because of the great city leadership and departments that care for the safety and well-being of the people who live here.

We support you and want your continued leadership and focus on keeping our community safe and protected.

Jackie Nicholl: We live in a wonderful area of the Salt Lake Valley. We feel safe in our environment due to the wonderful support of the dedicated professionals who serve in the Cottonwood Height police force. We have the utmost respect for the work they do and think police officers are very much needed. Chief Russo and his department are always there to serve the citizens of our great city.

In a world full of chaos let us remember who it is that rushes in to protect us from the willful and those who would commit crimes against us. Thank you for your dedicated service.

Robert Orton: Each policeman is a human being who loves and is loved by someone or many. He/she performs a valuable service for me and my family, and, I believe, for society in general. My wife and I have resided in the countries of Eastern Europe, and Western Europe, for 12 plus years and are firsthand witnesses of the superiority of our local police force to those we have observed and encountered in those countries. Yes, occasionally we encounter an exception to the general rule, as is the case with all groups of public servants, and for that matter nonpublic organizations; however, it would be a grave mistake to eliminate or substantially alter the composition and job description of our local police force, particularly at this time when well-reasoned decisions run the risk of being negatively impacted by emotions which are so intense in the face of the Minneapolis incident.

David Rupper: As a Cottonwood Heights resident and taxpayer, I wish to express my support for the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I am very aware of the flames of social unrest burning in America. While there may be a need for police reform in some large urban areas in this country, I do not believe there is a similar need in Cottonwood Heights. Based on my observation, the CH Police Department is properly performing their duties and they are to be commended for protecting our community. Recently, I have heard talk of "defunding Police Departments" and such talk is illogical and without feasibility. I believe the members of the CH Police Department are honorable men and women who are honoring the oaths they have taken to protect our community.

This country was built upon law and order. I am very concerned about efforts; however, well intentioned that would undermine the stability of our community.

Kelly and Mark Jensen: We love and support our Utah police force and feel incredibly grateful to live in Cottonwood Heights with the amazing officers that we have here. Thank you for all you do and hope the voices of gratitude and support drown out the others.

Kathy Jensen: With all the commotion across the Country concerning unfair, brutal, and racist practices of some police, particularly against communities of color, we would like to weigh in on our own Cottonwood Heights Police Department - and ask that you read this into the Record during the upcoming City Council Meeting.

Whenever we have interacted with our City's Police Officers, we have been impressed with their demonstrations of compassion, professionalism, and timeliness.

We have even had occasion to involve Chief Robby Russo in one incident. He, also, was helpful and professional. In fact, after those interactions, we felt that he had become a friend. We are Caucasians and do not pretend to understand the fear our friends of Color have of the police in general. I do know that they are statistically more likely to have a bad experience with Officers of the Law. However, we also know that this reality has painted all police officers with a broad brush. Our experience has been very good with our CHPD. However, we do hope that this intense climate of change will cause Chief Russo and the City's Mayor and Council to carefully evaluate all Policies and Procedures in the CHPD to assure racism is vetted in hiring, discussed in training, and evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the department.

We also ask that our City evaluate procedural recommendations that Police Officers have to follow. We would like to see interactions, when possible, to focus on helping, rather than punishing. A community committee composed of people of various races, socioeconomic standing, occupations, etc. could be brought together to make sure OUR CITY is and stays the WONDERFUL CITY we believe it to be.

Having said this, we recognize that our Police Officers are willing and do put themselves in harm's way to protect all of us and our responsibly free way of life. Please know that we are 100% behind EACH AND EVERY POLICE OFFICER serving this great City of Cottonwood Heights! We have deep gratitude for their service and wish all of them a safe and peaceful watch.

Jim McKean: I have heard that someone on the City Council is asking to defund the Cottonwood Police Department. In these times where chaos, rioting, violence, and civil disobedience is escalating every year, the very thought of defunding the Cottonwood Police Department is insane, to say the least!

I would hope that such a notion will be suppressed quickly and never brought up again. Thank you for all you do for our city.

Gregory Schwitzer: I am writing in strong support of our local Police Department here in Cottonwood Heights. They have served this community for many years with respect and honor and consistently protected the citizenry and property.

I am very concerned about some leaders who would even think to defund or remove our Police Department from city control. I absolutely would not support such an irrational move that would endanger the safety of our community. I would encourage the city administration to do all it can to counter any effort to do this.

Cheryl Munn: I've noticed that the Cottonwood Heights police slogan is "Solve the Problem". In my opinion, it's out of date, and harmful to community sensitivities at this difficult time of sadness and protest in our country. While it may seem a little common, it would be more helpful to our communities now to emphasize that the Police are "Peace Officers" and they show up to serve and protect us, please!

We can't expect our police to solve our problems with brutal force, or can or should we as your current slogan suggests? How about something more like "Serving & Protecting Our Community Since 1920" or insert the correct year policing began in Cottonwood Heights?

Please lead thoughtfully at this important time of change and re-examine all aspects of your police policies so that we can move forward with much better community and police relations in the future.

I found a website that may be very helpful to you as you discuss ideas at this challenging time to support both your Police Department and your community. It is at <https://8cantwait.org/>. You may even have your city listed there as being very helpful in building better relationships with your community & Police Department.

James Jones: In my opinion, we at Cottonwood Heights have one of the finest departments in the state. It would be a great blessing to be able to pay them what they are really worth. With that being said, their professionalism and the example they set for us is unfortunately not appreciated enough by everyone. Having worked with these fine officers for many years they not only have my appreciation but by their example have my complete confidence and trust.

Carter Childers: I respect and appreciate the work they do enforcing our laws and providing the safe community we all enjoy. I strongly oppose the idea of arbitrarily defunding, or diminishing, the resources available to the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. Only criminals, anarchists, or persons who have never known crime would support the notion of minimizing the current condition of our public safety and law enforcement.

No person, or organization, is perfect, but finding solutions and making improvements is rarely as simple as merely adding or subtracting dollars.

Odette Waddoups: I have been a resident of Cottonwood Heights since 1979 and I love it here. I have always felt like this is a very special community that works together for the good of everyone. Since the protest on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> organized by Tali Bruce, I feel things changing. I feel like she is trying to divide our wonderful city. I can't figure out why. We have knowledgeable leaders, as an exceptional police force, and all the amenities a city could need. People are friendly, caring, and helpful. Tali, what is your goal in tearing it all apart?

I attended the pro rally on Monday to show my support for the incredible men and women who put their lives on the line every day for me. I heard someone say, "They signed up for this, so what's the big deal?" Really, you honestly think they signed up because they wanted to be in harm's way every day? I prefer to think they signed up because they care about people and obeying laws and giving back to their community.

I heard Tali say on Fox 13 that the reason we pro-people came was because she took a knee during the pledge at the previous council meeting. I had no idea she did that until I heard it on the news. But I'd like to talk about that. I taught American History for 38 years. My students learned about the founding fathers and how this country came to be. I instilled a sense of pride in them for living in America, and I taught them to stand and put their hand over their heart during the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. I taught them to honor this great country by standing straight and thinking about how great we have it here. It has nothing to do with race, only pride, and gratitude.

At last week's Council Meeting, Tali said that she wished all us white supremacists had stayed to hear the amazing speakers. First of all, I am not a white supremacist and neither are all the friends and neighbors I stood by. I left because I felt like I had made my point which was that I wholeheartedly support the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I was also offended that she brought in the BLM group. I thought we were there to address things in Cottonwood Heights.

I was one of the ones who put the hearts on the building. We had already planned to do it but decided to do it for the rally to let the Police Department know we're grateful for them. We had permission to do it and it was not to make a political statement. We just wanted to show them that

we appreciate what they do for us. I understand the protesters tore them all down. Thank you. We would have done it, but you save us from all the work.

James Farley: As a citizen of Cottonwood Heights, I would like to send you a quick note in FULL SUPPORT of the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. In the years that I have lived in the city, we have been very impressed with their professionalism, kindness, and response time when needed. Just recently we had a speed sign placed in our neighborhood voluntarily by the Police Department to help slow down the traffic going to Crestwood Park. In this time that we live in, I am sure there are messages counter to mine and I did not want to quietly sit aside. Please express my support to the Police Department and to the City Council and mayor's office as you see fit.

Amber Morzelesky: I have only met you a handful of times and you may not remember me, but my name is Amber Morzelesky. I am the wife of one of the officers in the Cottonwood Heights Police Department as well as a citizen of Cottonwood Heights for the past 11 years. I am saddened by all the events that are occurring in the world today and all the hate that my husband and his colleagues are facing. I normally don't get involved and just show my support at home and let things just "roll off our backs" so to speak. However, I couldn't let the events that happened in downtown Salt Lake City on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> go without saying something, especially after seeing so many people posting such hatred and ignorant comments towards police. I posted something to my personal Facebook account and have shared it as an attachment with you. My hope is that you will read it during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

I think and feel that many people forget that police officers are only human and that many of them have families. If my words can give an insight into the life behind the badge, I hope they are shared, because I hope no one has to feel the way I did that night, trying to stay positive for my two children so that they aren't afraid.

Emily Weigel: I appreciate the opportunity to have my email read to the Cottonwood Heights City Council. I and my family have always supported our local policemen and women (...and quick shout out to our EMA/firefighters as well!) We've personally been the recipients of care by CHPD and we are thankful and grateful for their service to the community. We also recognize the daily sacrifice to the families of CHPD officers. Every day, CHPD officers and staff step into the unknown and I am thankful for their service and dedication to a career that can change by the second minute, hour, and day.

During the time of scrutiny, I would expect that CHPD will continue to look within, talk with local representatives, and engage with the community to work through any concerns. I'm confident CHPD employs the best of the best! I'm confident that the City Council will work with CHPD to ensure they continue to receive the best education and training available.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express our gratitude and support of all CHPD employees.

Ken and Tammy Hansen: It has come to our attention that there are rumors in the Cottonwood Heights communities to defund the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. We have lived in and been part of this community for well over 45 years and this is so disheartening and almost sickening to hear. These men and women are professional, kind, fair, and honorable and concerned



for the citizens of this community. I have seen them talk down suicidal people, known that they have been the first one to find a person who did in fact commit suicide and watched them hold a mom's hand as they told them their son died in an accident. These are things they do almost daily. These are not one-offs. They see the worst of the worst, they are spit on, cussed at and yet they show up again and again to protect us. The images of what they see daily do not leave them. They cannot unsee a mangled person or a dead child. These images are embedded with them for life. I have seen them put their lives on the line. Would regular citizens be willing to do this??? Are you willing to put the lives of this community at risk?? By defunding them, you are!! They are fine men and women, trained, qualified upstanding people behind the badge, and deserve our respect. Are they perfect? Probably not, are they expected to be?? Are our citizens more perfect?? The thought of taking funds away has our family terrified. I go to bed feeling safe, protected and watched over and we will not sit idly by and let fear come into the community we have built. Please know that we are completely against this and will do what it takes to ensure this does not happen. Please ensure this gets passed onto the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and all Council Members.

Heather Andersen: Many neighbors and I spent a couple of days and many hours cutting hearts and writing messages of respect, appreciation, and gratitude to our local officers who have been vilified as a profession in the media. THEY are INNOCENT of others' actions. It's not fair to blame all for a few. We wanted to help and put a smile on their faces. Our plan to show our officers our gratitude had been in the works for quite some time. When we heard that Ms. Bruce was hosting a "POLICE Reform" rally on behalf of OUR city, we felt the need to expedite our efforts and show our officers WE CARE! We put up our HEARTS and asked to be called when they'd like them taken down so WE could clean them up.

I'm curious, Ms. Bruce, did you read the messages before your attendees RIPPED them down? They were full of appreciation and OUR acknowledgment of what OUR GOOD men and women do and sacrifice day after day, in a hostile environment, to better OUR community. And I, Ms. Bruce, am a taxpayer as are my neighbors. WE pay for that building! "That" building is the people's house! That was not a "politicized advertisement", although I was impressed by your spin. I find it interesting that such a show of appreciation got so deeply under your skin. Especially since you claim you, "Love our officers".

On the Cottonwood Heights local politics Facebook page, I asked about topics to be discussed at the rally. Ms. Bruce's main organizer, Anna McNamara, posted a list of topics including "8 is great" and the "defunding movement" and encouraged me to educate myself further. The date of the rally, I asked if the funding would be discussed. She said aspects of it would be included and posted a facts sheet on the funding saying "it really isn't that scary". Ms. Bruce can deny knowing about her main organizer discussing defunding on a public site; correspondence she is a member of; however many citizens read about it on that page I have copies of the correspondence. So much for the conspiracy theory.

Ms. Bruce said it's time to listen to both sides and to feel and hear the pain of those being suppressed, targeted, discriminated against, bullied, harassed, and yes that happens in our city. Yes, it does. I know it does! I have had to suppress my concerns I've been targeted and bullied for trying to have a true discussion for change with her supporters; none of my suggestions are even

heard because I believe we must have police officers. That's a problem. What about our good officers? I think they feel bullied harassed targeted? I know they do I see it in their faces.

I didn't feel welcomed or safe to stay and attend the reform rally. I did watch the rally on FB replay. I was disappointed that they're speaking left out many facts to try to create a narrative of bad cops. I have the Internet. I do not just believe what I am told. I get all the facts I can. I will not be duped into a false narrative.

You made it quite clear that defunding was a vicious rumor. If you do not intend to defend our police services, why were you the only one who voted against this year's budget? I do not believe for one second you just want to change the format of the accounting process. You spoke specifically about adjusting the budget to include the expensive real estate our department sits on. I imagine that is only one of your tactics to reduce funding available for equipment training and officers on the street. I, Miss Bruce, do not believe you!

I agree with Ms. Bruce on one thing. Everyone should be held accountable for their actions. I asked the city officials to do whatever it takes to hold Ms. Bruce responsible for her words and actions. I am sick and tired of the US vs. THEM mentality she is perpetuating. I'm sure Ms. Bruce only hears my fear and white supremacy. How dare you throw such inflammatory and unfounded statements against our citizens around. Shame on you Ms. Bruce. You disgust me!

Eric Andersen: "We learn when we listen to each other." I wholeheartedly agree with Ms. Bruce, but what not once did I see you interact with the early rally attendees. I saw the Mayor and the other Councilmembers wandering and talking with the people. Not you. Perhaps you were busy with the media, spinning your narrative that we were all there because you took a knee during City Council the previous week. I knew nothing of it until the news report on Fox 13.

"I wish those early protesters had stayed," you said. First of all, we were not protesters. We weren't protesting anything. We were there to show our local officers are appreciation. Did you listen to any of the comments read last week? That your attendees were physically and verbally intimidating early attendees? Many attendees were elderly, had kids with them, or just plain didn't want to engage with rude angry people. Where is your concern for them and their voices? I watch the replay of the rally on Facebook. Although I can empathize, I found the speeches were mainly based on feelings and limited facts. Many facts were left out or skewed. I was very disappointed in your politicized rally. Limited facts, no statistics, one-sided opinions.

You also said speaking of our early rally attendees, "I hear their fear and I hear they're white supremacy and I get it. They want things just the way they've always been in their perceived tidy suburbia." How do you know what we want? You clearly are not asking, discussing, or listening to anyone outside of your own narrative. Do you know the definition of white supremacy? The belief that white people are superior to those of all other races, especially the black race, and should, therefore, dominate society. That is not Cottonwood Heights! That was not the elderly citizens, or citizens with families leaving out of concern for their safety. How dare you and your perceived biases!!!

You said equality can feel like suppression. Equality feels nothing of the sort. The definition of equality as the state of being equal, especially in status rights and opportunities. That does not mean you take from one person to give to another. There is enough for everyone. Do you have the right and opportunity to earn what others have worked for? We will not be bullied into giving up our freedoms because you call our citizens racist. Do not perceive our empathy, or desire to make changes for a better future for all citizens, including our officers, a weakness you can exploit.

I would call on this Council and city officials to hold all city employees accountable for their actions and their words. Tali Bruce is quick to attempt to discredit others like Doug Peterson for being “new”. She tried to manipulate the truth of our rally by saying Fox 13 that our rally was aimed at her taking a knee. She twisted the good actions of citizens showing our support for officers bike “heart attacking” the building with words of appreciation and is now attacking our citizens as white supremacists. She tried to get our chief's wife fired and he brought litigation to our city because of her actions. Those are my tax dollars being spent and I 100% percent support Chief Russo for protecting his family. My money is being wasted because of her poor actions. She clearly does not think before she acts, she does not hear the voices of all our citizens, and is pushing an us versus them mentality. That is not who we are, as a community, or who we want to become. She is a type of politician we need to get rid of! I implore you to hold her accountable.

There were no further public comments.

Mayor Petersen commented that he wanted those listening to understand that everyone has an opportunity to comment. He believed there was a common theme on both sides and that defunding the police is not a priority for either side. Since all of the Council Members are citizens and this is a topic being heard throughout the week, he allowed each to comment.

Council Member Bruce stated that a lot of the comments were directed at her and there was a very common Nazi phrase “If you tell a lie big enough and you keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.” It was stated over and over again that her rally was to defund police 25 times. She emphasized that she never once has uttered defund the police and makes her wonder who is soliciting the 2 ½-hours of comments. She stated that 100% of the rally was for reform. She did not personally observe anyone being harassed. She believed the police support rally was 100% organized to intimidate the reform rally as they showed up. There were a couple of calls to increase pay for the CHPD officers, which she supported. She stated she would rather have one highly trained professional who is skilled, one terrific cop than two horrible cops, and suggested they get the best of the best and pay them the premium. She expressed concern that community interactions have to sound so atrocious that people become fearful of how things are. She suggested that they be continually improving, seeking to be the best of the best, and have a police force that treats citizens like they are family members rather than targeting someone who is immediately assumed to be a criminal.

Council Member Bracken stated the equation of Nazi propaganda to any of the things that were read or said is out of place. Regardless of whether Council Member Bruce said the word defunding, that message clearly got through too many who either read or saw what was going on and that was their interpretation. He pointed out, that for good or bad, perception is reality. He believed that the organizers of the pro-rally were doing it to show their support and none he saw

were there to intimidate. That is not who they are and he took exception to that characterization. He agreed that they can always seek for improvement and it should be positive and something they work toward. He took issue with a question raised in a manner that is a thinly veiled accusation and hoped it could be avoided. He encouraged seeking out the positive.

Council Member Bruce agreed and stated that there is nothing more American than striving for a more perfect union. There are people in the community who do not feel heard and are on the radar to be targeted and officers are protecting and serving them. She believed it was a very small handful that executes the agenda of retaliation but it deserves to be addressed.

Council Member Petersen took exception with the group present to support the police and stated that they were not there to intimate anyone. The difference between the two groups was stark and the messages were heartfelt, but many were incorrect. He pointed out that the love and support shown to officers can never be misconstrued as anything to do with white supremacy or white privilege and he emphasized it was not a counter-protest.

Council Member Bruce believed it was Council Member Petersen's interpretation. She stated that as she approached the area, she felt intimidated. There were young men on the corner shouting as the police raced up and down with their sirens blaring while waving flags. She felt like she was entering a white supremacy rally. She commented that there are "bad actors" on both sides.

Council Member Petersen commented that American flags should not intimidate anyone. There were groups hanging signs that were very offensive and because someone drove past with flags and a Trump sticker does not mean they are white supremacists.

Council Member Bracken stated that he did not think the truck with signs and stickers was in good taste. He also thought that the young man driving by making noise and yelling at the people with signs was out of place. He was sorry Council Member Bruce felt that way when she approached but personally, he did not feel out of place in the second rally. He hoped and expected things would be peaceful.

Council Member Mikell commented that she was on vacation with her family and was unable to attend. She was saddened that they are in a pandemic and people cannot be at the podium in an open forum. She was troubled by the reading of letters and felt they need to do better the next time around. She had never considered this type of forum to be productive and stated that it leads to more divisiveness within the Council and community. It was her hope that they can find a way to come together and ultimately have more in common than differences. She believes the police force is great and they can go from great or excellent to perfect. She was sorry she was not able to attend and comprehend the totality of all that has been discussed.

Mayor Peterson commented that this is a difficult approach to take public comment and unfortunate when they become personal. He recommended they take the personalities out and deal with the facts. He had learned that successful, quality organizations are always improving and changing. He attended both rallies and spoke with many on both sides. He never felt threatened and felt that those who were there early had discussed with him their plans to leave an hour early before the other rally began. He felt that signs on the building were positive and uplifting and

supported Council Member Mikell's suggestion of focusing on the issues. He understood the perception of how residents feel and comments regarding transparency and did not see any support on either side for defunding.

Mayor Peterson suggested that going forward, they address the importance of mental health support for officers in training. He has had bad experiences with the review board, but there is an opportunity to work with the Utah League of Cities and Towns to discuss how that can be applied. He emphasized the importance of supporting the Police Chief and hiring diversity and accountability personnel.

Mayor Peterson stated that it has come time to be less divisive and start finding common ground. He reported that he receives dozens of emails asking what is wrong with his Council. He appreciated the Council's patience and honesty and respects their right to give an opinion. He stated that sometimes they may have to agree to disagree.

### **3.0 ACTION ITEMS**

#### **3.1 Consideration of Ordinance 343 Amending the City's Code of Ordinances Regarding Trees and Park Strip Landscaping.**

Mayor Peterson reported that the above item amends the City's Code of Ordinances regarding trees and park strip landscaping.

Community/Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson stated that staff has received suggestions and input from the various committees. He was proud of the end result that will help regulate trees throughout the City.

Council Member Bruce expressed gratitude to staff for their efforts.

Council Member Mikell thanked the constituent who brought this to the City's attention and her time spent with staff.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruce moved to approve Ordinance 343. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **3.2 Consideration of Resolution 2020-31 Approving Entry into Building Services Agreement with Sunrise Engineering, Inc.**

Mayor Peterson reported that the above item approves entry into Building Services Agreement with Sunrise Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Johnson stated that the resolution involves the renewal of the Sunrise Engineering contract and providing Building Department services to the City. The new contract does not propose any

changes to the cost structure. It is based on a percentage of Building Permit revenue and is flexible given economic conditions and building activity.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to approve Resolution 2020-31. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3.3 Consideration of Resolution 2020-32 Approving Entry into an Agreement with Salt Lake County for distribution of funding under the C.A.R.E.S. Act.**

Mayor Peterson reported that the above item approves entry into an agreement with Salt Lake County for distribution of funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act.

Mr. Tingey stated that the agreement was submitted by the County and allows for the expenditure of funds for federally defined projects. They have outlined a tentative plan for those funds, which includes a direct cost for supplies and items needed to address COVID-19. It also includes cost allocations to some non-profit organizations and looks at using the bulk for small business administration grants to help bridge the gap. Other support options will be explored.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruce moved to approve Resolution 2020-32. Council Member Bracken seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3.4 Consideration of Resolution 2020-33 Accepting Risk for Indemnification.**

City Attorney, Shane Topham reported that the Utah Governmental Immunity Act provides that when a City office or employee is sued for actions that may be within the scope of responsibility, the governmental entity is obligated to defend and indemnify that officer or employee. If the governmental entity chooses not to do that, the officer or employee can hire legal counsel. Mr. Topham explained that in this case, a lawsuit was initiated by Chief Robby Russo with the defendant named as Council Member Bruce. Council Member Bruce requested defense and indemnity and was granted. The basis for the proposed resolution is that Council Member Bruce also included a counterclaim to Chief Russo. Allegations in the counterclaim are essentially the same as allegations in a complaint that could have formed the basis for an independent lawsuit. Chief Russo made a written request to the City Council for defense and indemnity against the allegations in the counterclaim. By statute, the City Council is required to make a decision within 10 days after it is received.

Mr. Topham explained that previous indemnification requests have been granted with a reservation of rights. If what is being complained of in the counterclaim is not within the course and scope of the employee’s responsibilities with the City they have to answer to the City. Those decisions are typically made by the insurer who will monitor what takes place.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to approve Resolution 2020-33. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Abstained, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

#### **4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **4.1 Approval of the City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2020.**

The above matter was continued to the next meeting.

#### **5.0 ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to adjourn the Business Meeting and reconvene the Work Session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Business Meeting held Tuesday, July 7, 2020.*

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes  
T Forbes Group  
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: August 4, 2020