

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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 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, Senior Planner Matt Taylor

**Excused:** Council Member Christine W. Mikell

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

**1. Review of Business Meeting Agenda – Mayor Mike Peterson.**

Mayor Mike Peterson reviewed the Business Meeting Agenda.

**2. Staff Reports.**

**a. Trees and Park Strip Landscaping Ordinance – Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson and City Planner, Matt Taylor.**

Senior City Planner, Matt Taylor reported that the above agenda item was covered extensively during the May 5, 2020 meeting. He explained that the proposed ordinance establishes the City's goals regarding trees and the public right-of-way regarding landscaping. It defines the responsibilities of the City and the public in relation to new public trees and trees on private property as well as procedures for abatement of private tree hazards. Any development or redevelopment of a property would trigger the standards. Otherwise, these standards are voluntary. Approval was recommended by the Architectural Review Commission ("ARC") and the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee. A tree list will be provided listing 40 to 60 types of trees identified as appropriate for the ecosystem and climate and encourages the adoption of a broader base of trees. Mr. Taylor reported that provisions will be added to tree height limitations under power poles and a slide show depicting appropriate trees is available upon request.

**b. CARES Act Funding – City Manager Tim Tingey and Community Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson.**

City Manager, Tim Tingey provided an introduction to the proposed agreement submitted by Salt Lake County designating just over \$1 million of potential funding to the community. The

agreement contains very specific elements of allowable spending. He requested the Council consider the agreement with the County at the next City Council Meeting.

Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson reported that as a part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, the County was classified as the local government by the federal definition and received a direct allocation from the federal government of just over \$203 million. The State received \$1.25 billion. Salt Lake County has decided to pass portions of the funding through to each city or township in the County on a per capita basis. Cottonwood Heights will receive just over \$1 million of the funding. Funds not expended by October 1, 2020, will be returned to Salt Lake County. Allowable uses include necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and not accounted for in the most recent budget and costs incurred between March 1 and December 30, 2020, as a direct result of the public health emergency. He noted that the funding cannot be used as revenue replacement for lower than expected tax or other revenue collection along with numerous limitations imposed by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Mr. Johnson described federal, state, and local programs funded by the CARES Act. Programs include Economic Impact payments, the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, tax credits that incentivize businesses to retain employees and unemployment assistance. The State of Utah has established a rental assistance program and the County announced they have allocated \$40 million County-wide for their Small Business Impact Grant targeted at businesses with fewer than 100 employees.

An additional option discussed with County is to offer community grants to local businesses and organizations that either did not receive other funding or that will not receive County funding. Various grants were discussed.

Mr. Johnson reported that the process will continue to a formal vote to accept the money and once accepted; the City has until October 1, 2020, to utilize funds. Itemized City expenses will be considered when drafting the plan. It will then be presented to the City Council for final review and implementation.

c. **Salt Lake County Interlocal Agreement for UPDES – Public Works Director, Matt Shipp.**

Public Works Director, Matt Shipp reviewed the Salt Lake County Interlocal Agreement for Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“UPDES”) and reported that it goes back to the 1972 Clean Water Act. This is a sub-system of the national system and as a City, they are required to clean any water flowing to creeks or groundwater. Jordan Valley Municipalities include all cities within Salt Lake County that implement the program Cottonwood Heights is required to follow. A yearly fee of \$5,000 is paid based on municipal size and is recurring every five years.

**d. Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Discussion – City Manager, Tim Tingey and Finance and Administrative Services Director, Scott Jurses.**

Mr. Tingey reported that cities often need to finalize amendment items including revenues received, grants, and other issues associated with Memorandums of Understanding (“MOU”).

Finance and Administrative Services Director, Scott Jurses explained that most budget discussion items relate to reimbursements or are MOU related. Eight adjustments pertain to the General Fund with one going into the Community Development and Renewal Agency (“CDRA”) Fund. Adjustments include the following:

- windshield replacement;
- A series of DUI overtime reimbursements within the Police Department;
- K-9 donation received late 2019;
- Services provided for Target Black Friday sale;
- Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) received for police training in the amount of \$8,001;
- State Asset Forfeiture Grant in the amount of \$2,500;
- Sale of unclaimed police evidence;
- Central Wasatch Commission bus service contribution for \$5,000; and
- Final \$750,000 from Salt Lake County for the Canyons Center parking structure.

Police Chief, Robby Russo confirmed that DUI overtime reimbursement went to the Utah Department of Public Safety to provide additional shifts to look for DUIs within the various municipalities. Cottonwood Heights applied for the additional shifts and funds are in the form of reimbursement coming back to the City from the State. The JAG and State Asset Forfeiture Grants go toward qualifying items such as police training and conferences.

Mayor Peterson reported that the July meeting will include a full discussion regarding training and related topics within the Cottonwood Heights Police Department.

Council Member Petersen asked if the overtime includes holiday pay. Chief Russo explained that the DUI and Highway Safety Program is funded through fines and forfeitures and fees associated with convictions. Those funds are collected and target specific holidays with high drinking times and Cottonwood Heights is awarded shifts paid at premium overtime. It was noted that progress reports and wages are reported back to the State.

**e. Tentative Budget Discussion – City Manager, Tim Tingey and Finance and Administrative Services Director, Scott Jurses.**

Mr. Tingey reported that the budget process is important in how the business of the City is conducted. He and Mr. Jurses began meeting with each of the department heads in January to outline their budget needs. They also established a compensation process study and have worked with the department heads to shape some of the preliminary budget figures. Budget priorities and expectations were reviewed at the Council Retreat and they then began to shape preliminary proposals based on that discussion. He confirmed that the Budget and Compensation Committees carefully reviewed stormwater fees and reviewed the Compensation Study.

After the onset of COVID-19, the City's revenues and expenses were reviewed and as part of the process and recommendations were evaluated. Adoption of the Tentative Budget took place in May 2020 and staff returned with additional public input. As previously requested, a budget comparison document was presented to allow for additional transparency. Mr. Tingey emphasized that it has been an open and intensive process and input received has been instrumental. H recommended adoption.

Mr. Jurgens reviewed changes from the Tentative Budget that was incorporated into the document. There was an increase in property taxes of \$13,137 more than anticipated. The Fire Department budget decreased by \$19,342. Both items resulted in a \$32,479 savings to the General Fund. He reported that \$1.3 million from the General Fund will be used leaving \$2.5 million. Just under \$1 million will be retained for the required 5% with an additional \$200,000 for the extra 1% by City ordinance of approximately \$550,000 for a PTO reserve leaving \$785,000. The net change to the overall budget was \$32,000 from the Tentative Budget recommendation.

Mayor Peterson stated that when moving forward if they were to take \$1.3 million from Fund Balance for the current year and had the same budget the upcoming year, an adequate Fund Balance would not be available for the second year. Over the next 12 months, he recommended they be sensitive to the challenge before them.

Mr. Tingey described the Stormwater Fee as well as the Telecom Fee, which will be evaluated if the Council decides to incorporate them into next year's budget.

Mayor Peterson commended Messrs. Tingey and Jurgens for their efforts and commented that it has been the best budget process he has been involved in since becoming a Council Member.

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

There were no items to review.

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

There was no Closed Meeting.

**5. Adjourn City Council Work Session.**

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

The Work Session adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS HELD  
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**Excused:** Council Member Christine W. Mikell

**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.

**2.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS**

City Manager, Tim Tingey outlined the requirements for public comments. He explained that public comments may be submitted to the City Recorder via email until the start of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. MST. Those received after the start of the meeting will be forwarded to the City Council, but not read into the record or addressed during the meeting. He confirmed he had received many emails and will only read those that provide instructions to have them read into the record. He encouraged those who do not get their comments read to resubmit providing instructions to do so. Those comments will be read into the record at the next meeting.

City Attorney, Shane Topham was agreeable to the process and stated that with derogatory or inflammatory comments, the First Amendment needs to be considered strongly when considering public comments. If a disruption takes place during a live meeting, the Council can remove the person from the meeting on a majority vote.

Mr. Tingey read the following citizen comments in the order received and emphasized that he would be consistent with the three-minute time limit.

*Daisy Thomas:* Councilwoman Bruce is my City rep. I have lived in District 3 for nearly five years with my husband and four children and during those five years, before and during Councilwoman Bruce's term, she has shown that she was, is, and has proven herself to be a strong voice on our Council, and more importantly, one that is rarely represented. She speaks for those

whose voices go ignored. The idea that her character and integrity are being damaged by our fellow community members is abhorrent. Her worries and concerns are valid as they are the same worries and concerns that I and many of my neighbors have reached out to her about.

Dismissing the validity of complaints against our Police Force is how public trust erodes. The militarization of our Police Force frightens our community, it does not make us feel safer. A for-profit criminal justice system reinforces that public distrust, as there is then an economic incentive-based on profitability to then purchase items that are simply unnecessary for our city. Want to do something tangible? Fund City mental health and social services. At the bare minimum, inquiring about budgetary concerns is how you keep that trust in place. Transparency matters. It is stunning to me that in 2020 Ms. Bruce could be so dismissed and treated poorly, not just as a City Council Member, local business owner, and Cottonwood Heights resident, but simply as a human being. Is this how we treat our fellow neighbors in Cottonwood Heights? In Utah? I would think and hope not but seeing is believing and I have seen ugliness here that was unexpected, but frankly unsurprising.

We moved to Cottonwood Heights because we wanted to raise our children here, but this line of discourse and anger must end. Yes, Black Lives Matter. No, kneeling during the anthem is not disrespectful to the flag, it is recognizing that severe injustices are happening in the name of the United States, disrespecting all those who have fought and died for our nation. Per Nicole Greenstein's *Time Magazine* article, Why the U.S. Flag is Red White and Blue, "Red for courage and readiness to sacrifice; white for pure intentions and high ideals; and blue for vigilance and justice." Councilwoman Bruce has proven her courage and readiness to sacrifice her safety and reputation because she holds true to her high ideals and stands for justice. How is that anything but commendable, particularly in an elected official? Instead of harassing her, more City officials could be learning from and with her on how to be more accountable, how to really parse out these issues, and how to do so with grace. I stand with Tali.

Wendy Garner: I have been a resident of Cottonwood Heights for 12 years. I love this city for its beauty and awesome residents. Tali Bruce is one of the reasons I love this city. She is the most responsive public official I have ever known. She listens to ALL residents seeking their input and working to meet our needs. Cottonwood Heights is a better city because of her commitment and service!

Katherine L. Peterson: Tali is a bright ray of light and positive service and change in Cottonwood Heights! Even though she is not my Councilperson, Tali has been very compassionate and helpful with three chronic and disturbing nuisance issues on the 2500 East Nantucket Block of my neighborhood when Code Enforcement and Chief Russo were not helpful. Tali carries the bright torch of transformation for a kind and just society in Cottonwood Heights. I am inspired by her courage to ask hard questions about police budgets their tack transparency for numerous years. Tali is a successful businessperson. She has asked numerous questions on how to make Cottonwood Heights more successful business-wise. Cottonwood Heights is a more enjoyable place to live since Councilwoman Bruce has been councilwoman. Tali is a HERO for her service in Cottonwood Heights!!! It is unfortunate to read in *The Tribune News* this week that Mr. Russo is suing Tali and Cottonwood Heights. I am aware that Mr. Russo has GRAMMA requested Tali's emails several times. This is the action of a very PARANOID "little" man. I find it comical and

totally out of place that Mr. Russo is suing Tali, as he has let his men mercilessly harass her for over 3.5 years sitting outside her home in their police cars, sandwiching her in between two police cars while driving home from City Hall, harassing her businesses and her employees and now suing her and the City. I predict that Mr. Russo's lawsuit will spectacularly boomerang and only turn the negate spotlight back on Mr. Russo. He will reap what he sows' If anything, Mr. Russo should be FIRED for harassing a City Councilwoman who was duly elected to represent the people of Cottonwood Heights. He is not a fit Police Chief for Cottonwood Heights. He should never have been hired in the first place. People told Mr. Cullimore not to hire Mr. Russo. Mr. Russo was "installed" by former Mayor Cullimore while he was allegedly being investigated by the FBI.

Per the Canyon Inn article in Sept 2015, Mr. Russo betrayed his boss, Jim Winder, by working with Cullimore to be Police Chief in Cottonwood Heights and the CHPD also harassed Canyon Inn owners and patrons until it closed. He also harassed 7-Eleven for 6 years. Fortunately, 7-Eleven is still open and thriving! Mr. Russo has caused a lot of unnecessary drama here in Cottonwood Heights. It is TIME FOR HIM TO GO!! He is inciting a lot of his many PR people to take up arms against Councilwoman Bruce. It was like a zoo last night arriving at a peaceful rally to reform the police seeing Russo's huge PR team in action. The best thing you can do as City Manager, Tim, and City Council is to remove, fire Mr. Russo! We do not need an UNFIT AND CORRUPT DRAMA QUEEN TO BE LEADING CHPD! He has done enough damage! The citizens of Cottonwood Heights will breathe easier when Mr. Russo is put out to pasture to harass the pigs and the cows!!!

Michael Cundick: My name is Michael Cundick and I am a Green Party Candidate for Salt Lake County Mayor and a resident of Cottonwood Heights. I want to submit this comment in support of Councilwoman Tali Bruce and her support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. At a time in the country where compassion, remorse, and reform are needed to improve policing in response to numerous tragedies, I applaud her decision to take a knee in support of the movement. She is a leader and is helping to be the change we need to see in the world.

Jessica Baker: I am aware that today is City Council day. I wanted to be sure to send a note in agreement with Councilwoman Tali Bruce on the need for police reform. I have some pretty extreme concerns about the Police Department that I have had for a few years. I am not thrilled with reports of neighbors and their experiences with the police and abuse of powers. I am not thrilled with the cost of our Police Department versus when we used affiliated police departments. I am extremely concerned about Mr. Russo. What we pay for him we certainly should get a higher quality of police officer, versus someone with questionable ethics. I am a fourth-generation Cottonwood Heights resident. I love this city. I love all that it has to offer and the wonderful community that we have. I think it could be much better.

Jim Kichas: I would like to formally make a public comment in support of Councilwoman Tali Bruce and her absolute right to demonstrate protest by taking a knee during the Pledge of Allegiance at the June 2, 2020, City Council Meeting. I fully support her explanation of the rationale behind her action and hold that ultimately Councilwoman Bruce is an elected representative who is accountable to the voters in her district (and not to pressure from unelected officials within the City). I also want to voice my support of the job she is doing as my elected representative in asking difficult questions about policing and potential police reforms that would

result in better outcomes for our city, its citizens, and our officers. While uncomfortable, this historic moment in our nation demands that we do the hard work of scrutinizing how things have been done in the past. It demands that we look inward and reflect on our priorities and desired outcomes as a community. I want to go on the record that I fully support Councilwoman Bruce and believe she is working on behalf of her constituents (and the city) to have these hard conversations and make the best and most informed decisions possible.

MacKenzie Lenz: I am writing to show my support of Councilwoman Bruce in her recent actions of standing up, through kneeling down, for a righteous cause. I believe that the Councilwoman's actions are justified and necessary to help support the current political movements aimed at policing. This movement is of great importance to our community and the Councilwoman's support is essential to the change that is needed nationwide. Her actions should be celebrated, not condemned. I believe that an analysis should be done concerning the police budget. An analysis should be done on any high funded entity to ensure that the money generated by the community is being used to support its members. The police should not be exempt from questioning and should be accountable to their actions, which includes how they are using their funds. I would also like to state that I believe it is obvious the police are against the council woman's, given their chief's lawsuit against her and the harassment that they have enacted upon her. It is inappropriate for those who should protect and serve the community to work against said community; and in this situation the police are working very much against a reasonable request made by the Councilwoman. The mere suggestion that their budget be analyzed, which does not guarantee a budget cut but just questions if the communities funds are being well used in support of its members, angers the police and that is a huge problem. In conclusion, I fully support Councilwoman Bruce and a budget analysis of the police.

Sarah Kichas: I am submitting public comment in full support of Councilwoman Tali Bruce and the job she is doing as my elected representative. Tali does a wonderful job on behalf of the City and genuinely cares about her constituents. She is doing the unpopular (but necessary) work of asking hard questions about tough issue, and it exactly the kind of leadership we need.

Ralene Harker: I believe Council Member Bruce is an inspiration for women and fighting for equal rights in fighting for all she works to ensure. She is willing to speak up even when hard and expressed gratitude for her voice and her strength.

Mike Vignal: The most patriotic thing any of us can do is identify wrongs in our community and try to fix them. This is exactly what councilwoman Bruce has done in her time on the Council, and I am very proud of the courage she has shown.

Ann Dent: I am overwhelmingly concerned and baffled at the blatant treatment of Councilwoman Bruce. You hire a Police Chief that has years of bad policing that is noted and then allow him to abuse her. As a councilwoman she requested a budget analysis of the PD, this is when it all started. I attended a few council meetings and the level of disrespect was astonishing. I ask you Mayor Peterson and other council members, especially you Christine Mikell, are you okay looking away and not standing up for Councilwoman Bruce? If you ask other elected and police chiefs from this valley about Russo do you know what they say? Everyone knows his background and lack of integrity but is afraid to deal with him. Mayor Peterson how do you hire someone like that? Does



Russo have something on you? When will the rest of you take a stand? The police in Cottonwood Heights are a militarized gestapo. They have been given the power to do what they want and it shows. You can remain silent all you want. You can create backdoor deals with your police chief. Just remember, what happens in the dark always comes out in the light. Always. I implore you to do the right thing. This is not about politics. This is about what's right.

Jeanie Kronenberg: I have known Tali Bruce for 20 years and I would like to say that I know she is an honest woman who stands by her principles. I am so proud that she is standing by her convictions of seeking transparency in the City of Cottonwood Heights finances as well as supporting basic human rights.

Anna Marie McNamer: Council Member Tali Bruce is an incredible representative who listens to all of her constituents with compassion. She is willing to have hard conversations and stand up for marginalized communities. By encouraging environmentally friendly practices and inclusive policy changes, Councilwoman Bruce looks with an eye and a heart to the future of our community and our children. I thank Councilwoman Bruce for being willing to challenge our status quo and truly taking our community to a new Heights!!

Sherry Nicholes: At your last meeting I witnessed Councilwoman Bruce dedicate the Pledge to "our residents of color". What a thoughtful way to recognize ALL residents. We are diverse and that is a good thing. As she participated in the pledge, respectfully with her hand over her heart she took a knee. Thank you! I also noticed the officer in uniform laughing and chit chatting with someone off camera. This is not how I would expect participation in a meeting this important. Respectfully taking a knee and participating or chucking it up with your buds. I know which I find to be most disrespectful.

Kim Turner: This is to show support for Tali Bruce for the amazing effort she is making to shine a necessary light on the problems in her district. She has the courage to make a difference and to try and be heard! Please read this email into the public record and count voice among the many that consider Tali Bruce a force for good.

Alyssa Milne: I attended the event yesterday and came away so inspired. I appreciate all our Police Department does to protect us. I also want accountability. I want a system that is FAIR AND JUST. I am thankful for Tali and the work she tirelessly does to be a voice for the often underserved of our community. I support her 100%.

Kelby Hahn: I am in full support of the current actions by Councilwoman Bruce. Her choice to kneel shows a compassion for and dedication to the marginalized members of the community. She has taken a stance for what is just and fair. Her call to refocus the police motto is more than justified and should be taken seriously. Furthermore, this City allowing her to continually be harassed by the Chief of Police is despicable. This City should step up and defend her and the commendable actions she has been taking. I am proud of Councilwoman Bruce and fully support her efforts. I wish I had had a representative like her to look up to when I was on Cottonwood Heights Youth City Council.

Makenzie Peterson: After attending the rally at city hall on Monday evening, I would like to express my immense gratitude for Councilwoman Tali Bruce. Many Cottonwood Heights citizens, such as myself, feel that our voices are not accurately represented by the majority of elected officials, however, Councilmember Bruce provides a voice for us all. I would like to thank her for her compassion and concern for the Black community that is suffering so greatly at this time. And I would like to thank her for her dedication to transparency in the city's budget. It is my opinion that the CHPD is grossly over-funded. I urge other Council Members of Cottonwood Heights to consider reallocating a portion of the police budget to education. Tali, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I stand with you.

Tyler McNamer: I hope your day is going well. I know there has been a ton of craziness going on with the protests lately but I was just hoping that you could voice my support of Tali Bruce tonight. If a specific comment can be made, I'd like it to be along the lines of "I'm proud to have Tali as my City Council representative. Her ability to stand up for what's right in the face of this intimidation speaks volumes to her character". Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Makayla Hopkins: After attending Monday's Rally, I would like to express my gratitude to Councilwoman Bruce. She graciously lent her platform for underrepresented voices to be heard, the voices of communities that are too often silenced and dismissed. Communities that are simply asking for safety, for basic human rights. Peaceful rallies, such as what I experienced yesterday, give me great hope for a safer tomorrow for all. As a Black woman of color, I stand with Tali Bruce.

Elizabeth Dean: I have known Tali Bruce for a few years and in that time, I have only known her to be an outstanding and upstanding human and citizen. She is thoughtful and has such compassion for others-especially those in need. She has been through difficult times and not only raised herself up but also her children, her family, her friends, and complete strangers. When she hears, sees, or knows of any injustice, Tali is the first to stand up to it. She is not afraid of asking questions and she most definitely does not stand idly by. She works hard for what is right but yet is willing to listen when listening is required. I support Tali Bruce and hope that others can get to know her as I have. She is an exceptional American and human.

Traci Gunderson: The U.S. Constitution provides all Americans with a fundamental right to free speech. It specifically states that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." This Constitutional right is held by all U.S. citizens, including those who hold elected office. Regardless of what one's personal opinion of the recent events involving civil rights, police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement happens to be, the right to express that opinion is a foundational principle of a free people. I respectfully urge the city of Cottonwood Heights and its residents to protect and honor the constitution of our state and federal governments. Any negative governmental action against Ms. Bruce for her political opinions will deter all free speech in the City and the association rights protected by the First Amendment, creating an illegal chilling effect.

Lauri Gray: Tali is someone who has the courage to stand up for people of color and others who are oppressed in Cottonwood Heights and Utah. She should be applauded for taking a knee. We need more Utahns like her.

Ellen Birrell: Councilwoman Tali Bruce has exhibited exemplary public service to her district's constituents and the Cottonwood Heights community at large. Opening herself up to hear constituents' concerns and needs not only during formal meetings but also on a monthly informal basis, she has followed through on her commitment to take action on the items that her constituents need in order to make Cottonwood Heights a safer and more fiscally sound City. She represents my values and hopes for the betterment of our community.

Kim Stojack: Tali is our "David" standing up to the "Goliath" CHPD/Russo. She is an ally to the citizens of Cottonwood Heights; unlike any we have ever had before. She stands for truth, integrity and compassion and has been such an asset to our City Council and our community. She stands for what is truth!! I applaud her for who she is and what she believes is the best for our community, which is holding our City government and Police Department to transparency and accountability. Tali, thank you for your continued service and having the courage to stand up for us as citizens and to speaking out on what is RIGHT!!! We have your back 100% because we have fought against this "Goliath" and he doesn't play nice.

Jack Bloom: I am sending you this email in support of Councilwoman Tali Bruce. The residents of her district should be proud to have as conscientious a Council person as Ms. Bruce. Since being elected, she has been tireless in her work to represent the best interests, not only of her constituents, but of all the citizens of Cottonwood Heights. She has asked the hard questions that others are unwilling to ask. She should be commended, not vilified, for her willingness to do this. She shows everyone what a real public servant should strive to be. Thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude for having Tali Bruce as an elected official of Cottonwood Heights.

Gabrielle Nacey: My name is Gabrielle Nacey, I am a resident of Cottonwood Heights and this is to be read into public comment. I would like to share my feelings on Tali Bruce. I think she is an AMAZING representative for the people of this district and I appreciate the options she presents. Her open-mindedness and pure kindness is exactly what we need in these trying times. In meeting her last night, all my formed opinions on her were completely solidified. Thank you so much.

Rae James: I wish to offer my support with Tali Bruce. She is an incredible individual and I feel that she is the best person to serve our community.

Kelvyn H. Cullimore Jr.: I write this letter to express to the Council my position regarding racial inequity in law enforcement. Please share this letter on the record with the Council at the council meeting tonight. Let me state unequivocally that there is no place in law enforcement for racial profiling or racial bias in the application of the law. As a result, I support the concerns expressed by Black Lives Matter. We need to have adjustments to our attitudes in society and work to erase any element of bias in our enforcement of the laws.

That said, I am saddened by the blanket accusations made against the police, in general. We will not win the battle of improving law enforcement by vilifying those who put their lives on the line

every day. We need to encourage collaboration with law enforcement, not exclude them from the public forum of discussion. If we try to make all police the villain when only a few are bad actors, we compel them to be defensive, we drive good officers out of the force and we create an air of antagonism that makes any officer fearful to do their job. They distrust the efforts for appropriate reform when they are not being included in the discussion.

We need to thank the police for all the good they do. Invite them to help us improve our efforts to erase racial profiling and racial inequity in law enforcement. Who better to make that happen quickly than a police force willing to adopt new policies and procedures because of the support they feel from the community?

Years ago, when I was serving as Mayor, there was a shooting of a person in another jurisdiction who was in mental distress. Chief Russo and I had a conversation about how we would handle such a situation in Cottonwood Heights. The Council weighed in and we, together with police leadership, agreed that sensitivity training was needed and appropriate. It has happened repeatedly since that time. CHPD is among the best trained to deal with people fighting mental illnesses of all kinds and has shown a willingness to adapt and change to meet societal expectations and improve equal enforcement of the law.

In addition, many of the issues raised by those demanding reform have long been policy for Cottonwood Heights. In the history of CHPD I am only aware of three times when lethal force was used. That shows significant restraint and is evidence of proper training. I also believe statistics will show that CHPD has a much higher diversity population than the citizenry of Cottonwood Heights. At one point we boasted 50% minority members of our police force until the hostilities toward the police began a few years ago. Now it is down to around 30%.

The hostilities I refer to are those fostered by Councilwoman Tali Bruce. Her efforts to undermine CHPD, attack our police chief, and create a hostile environment has been most unfortunate. It has been her mission since being elected to rid the city of Chief Russo, and if possible, the entire Police Department. Councilwoman Bruce has even gone so far as to make a veiled attempt to get the Chief's wife fired from her position as a dental hygienist by telling the dentist Chief Russo's wife was employed by that she felt unsafe coming into his office. Her actions have resulted in a lawsuit being filed against the city and her by the Chief. I resent the fact that my tax dollars are going to be used to defend a lawsuit that is the product of Councilwoman Bruce's personal agenda. She feigns support for the police, but you cannot find a single CHPD member who believes that to be true. It is a sound bite she utilizes to deflect criticism and give cover to her narrative. I am a constituent of District 3. She does not represent my views nor does she represent the views of the majority of the constituents I know in District 3.

I urge the City Council to recognize her misbehavior and settle the suit with Chief Russo to minimize the fiscal impact on the city and to send a message that her behavior needs to stop. The City Council majority has made it clear they support the Chief and the Police Department. Continued efforts by Councilwoman Bruce are nothing more than a furthering of her personal agenda at the expense of tax dollars, employee morale, and a derailing of more important City business.

I know firsthand the importance of having our own Police Department. Statistically, we have one of the best in the state. They deserve our support. There are so many stories of the good deeds of our police. I remember when a particular citizen committed suicide. Police were called. They worked into the night to clean the home so the family did not have to deal with the trauma of cleaning up the scene. On another occasion, a youth was missing. Police had a lead and hiked into the canyon only to find the young man had hung himself. Their efforts went above the expected and saved the family the trauma of finding their son in that condition. On another occasion, they bought bikes for kids whose bikes got stolen. The litany of good deeds by our police is long and storied.

Is there room for improvement? Of course. CHPD is better today than they were five years ago and will be better in five years than they are today. I believe them to be receptive to constructive input and willing to consider appropriate reforms. Ironically, most of the demands being made of police departments across the country have been the policy at CHPD for years. We count on our police. We trust them. We support them. We hope you will too.

Andrew Davis: As a longtime resident of Cottonwood Heights I would like to throw my support behind the CHPD and Chief Russo. Due to the nature of my profession, I have had the opportunity to come into close contact with the CHPD many times on many different emergency and crime scenes. I have seen the good officers of our city when the stress and difficulties of their jobs are in full view. I have never seen any member of the Police Department act in any way other than with professionalism and restraint. My unique perspective working alongside many departments across this valley gives me the confidence to say that I believe that we have as capable and professional a police department as you will find. I support them and I am grateful that they are just a call away to respond to me and my family. I find it disturbing that a Councilwoman from this City would lead a protest against her own Police Department. This is not a time to let personal petty history with Chief Russo punish all of the good and upstanding police officers in our community, which in turn hurts the community itself. These are difficult times with a current pandemic, sad and tragic racism, and political hate everywhere we turn. This city is our home. Now is the time to embrace each other, let those things from the past that are not relevant be forgotten, and become closer as a community.

Anonymous: I write to you as a concerned resident of Cottonwood Heights. I am appalled, disappointed, and disgusted by the fact that there was an Anti-American protest held in our small, calm little town of Cottonwood Heights tonight. Those may be strong words to some of the Council Members, but that is exactly what I witnessed tonight. My heart ached as my love for our great country, the last bastion of freedom here on this earth, was torn into pieces and slaughtered by speaker after speaker who denigrated our freedoms with vile hate speech, spinning lie after lie, about our wonderful country. And OUR city approved this? And OUR City Council approved this? And from what I understand, this event was sponsored and promoted by a member of OUR City Council? Shame on the Cottonwood Heights City Councilperson who was behind this! Shame on the Council for allowing this to occur in our City. Shame on the City for endorsing this kind of activity! Seriously Mr. Tingey. This was a Cottonwood Heights City approved/sponsored event. But at this City-sponsored event, there were NO speakers on the microphone to tell the truth!

How sad for all those in attendance, no matter what side they were on. ALL DESERVE TO HEAR THE WHOLE TRUTH! A city that allows false information to be preached from its own building is despicable. Here are some truths for you and the rest of the City Council. I would be happy to have you share this letter and these facts with the rest of the Council. Maybe some Council Members will wake up to the truth, and the truth that the majority of our City and its residents do not want all these liberal lies laid on us! Our little town is NOT the place for this type of event. There is NO reason to bring the lies and the hate speech to our neighborhoods. We get enough of this on TV and with the lies the MSM promotes daily. If you tell people lies long enough, they begin to believe them. The agenda that was pushed tonight by the speakers at the protest was all one-sided. There was NOTHING heard from the conservative platform. Fair is fair, right? So, where was the fairness tonight? The vocal minority had center stage, with microphones, speakers, music, and loud, loud voices preaching all kinds of hate. The fact is, this type of protest that brings anger, hate, upheaval, racism, division, anti-American hate speech, by way of Democrat Socialism is not what the majority of our city wants. While, by the rights of our Constitution, we are all allowed a peaceful protest, this type of indoctrination is NOT something that should be tolerated in our community.

We have had no reason to bring these violent extremists to our little town. We are not LA, NYC, Chicago, or any other large city with the kind of crime, and civil unrest that thrive in those areas. We are a civil society. We honor our neighbors, friends, government, and police. If, and when there are issues, we solve them in a court of law, following the laws of the land, without discrimination or prejudice. Giving this type of group a platform to push their agenda, recruit and spread their divisiveness is not helpful in building peaceful relations between neighbors, communities, police, or government. An already peaceful community exists here and spewing the rhetoric of the liberal socialists just breeds hate and animosity. Most of us live in this small town because it is peaceful, quiet and we get along. It is a community with family values, where we can raise our families, being no respecter of persons, race, creed, color, or religion. We choose to keep it that way. By inviting radical, militant leftist organizations to build a platform in our small town is not conducive to calm dialogue, and thus, not only prevents forward progress but instills fear and hate. These speakers, as I understood it, were there to promote the "defund the police" movement. But from what I heard tonight, this was the far-left faction of the Socialist Democrat party, pushing all in attendance to vote in Democrats, and sign their petitions, all while asking for donations! This "peaceful protest" was in reality a Democrat party recruitment rally and fundraiser, both for their far-left radical agenda and for the Black Lives Matter platform. As I listened tonight, I heard the following lies touted with much emotion, blatantly, on purpose to stir up weak minds in the crowd:

1. Black Lives Matter. (I thought this was supposed to be a protest for defunding the police?)
  - a. Truth: All lives Matter. I am not a racist. I love all races. I have great friends who are black, brown, yellow, Indian, Mexican, Muslim, mixed-race .... it does not matter what color they are. I love them, and God loves them. I think most of Cottonwood Heights feels the same way I do. To push the Black Lives Matter agenda in our city is wrong. We are all children of the same God. Our government assures us that we all endowed by our

creator to be equal. For those who want to buy into this agenda, that is their personal business, but it should NOT be the business of our city.

- b. Go to their website. Answer honestly as you read the following. Is this the platform of our city? Is this the agenda you want to support and push on the residents of Cottonwood Heights? I am not placing judgment on the following, but quoting directly from their website for your information:
  - i. "Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.
  - ii. "We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure... "
  - iii. We foster a queer-affirming network.
  - iv. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather the belief that all in the work are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise)."
- c. TRUTH: My response to the aforementioned:

I may be very naive, but as far as I know, we do not have a large black community in Cottonwood Heights. (Yes, we have black residents, many of whom are my friends.) If we do not have a major black community here, are we worried about the violence inflicted on our black residents by the state and vigilantes? Do we even have local vigilantes that are anti-black here? Do we have residents here that commit racist crimes against blacks in our community? (After living in the LA basin for almost 30 years, this does not feel like we have a problem with this here.) If this is the case, why are you as a city supporting a cause that pushes this racist agenda? Disrupting the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure. To me, this sounds like they would prefer families without a mother and/or father in the home. A nuclear family is one that consists of a father, mother, and children. There are statistics that prove that children who live in homes without a father are much more likely to struggle in life, end up in jail, have dependency issues, not attend college, etc. Why would the city want to support a platform that causes more problems in our societies? If Black Lives matter to the BLM organization, why aren't they standing up for the disproportionately large number of black babies aborted each year? Or the large amount of black-on-black murder that outweighs all other race-on-race murder rates? Is this really what Cottonwood Heights City wants to support?



2. Racism is a terrible issue in Cottonwood Heights. They fostered racism in ALL of their remarks, for example, touting that "BLACKS deserved guns to protect them against all the WHITE school shooters." The way she spun this was completely anti-white. If someone had said, all white people deserve guns to protect them against BLACK shooters, there would be outrage!
  - a. TRUTH: All law-abiding citizens enjoy the 2nd Amendment of gun ownership.
3. Anti-America
  - a. Several speakers listed reasons why, to them, we should stand against America, for something different, for some kind of reform, whether it be police reform, political reform, government reform, or racial reform. All of the issues they addressed may need some work, but this kind of one-sided-political-party format is the WRONG way to go about positive change.
  - b. Several of the speakers told outright lies to the group that was there. One, in particular, was telling the crowd why we 'take a knee' to the flag. (I will paraphrase because I did not record it and do not want to get in trouble for misstating facts.) But the point she made, was that "we kneel to the flag because our veterans in WWII, and other wars, did not come home. They died on the battlefield. We kneel to remember them."
  - c. TRUTH: I am sorry, but nothing could be further from the truth! We NEVER kneel to the flag out of respect! We stand at attention, salute, or with our hand over our heart, to show reverence and respect to our country's flag. That is how we honor ALL those who have TRUTH: fought in wars for our freedom. ALL veterans. Whether they died in battle or returned, they all deserve the respect of us standing for them and our beautiful flag. My father and grandfather served in WWII, and another grandfather served in WWI. I also had a brother serve in Vietnam. Never have I heard such lies and rhetoric, as what I heard tonight from the speakers at the "Black Lives Matter" protest in Cottonwood Heights. It is absurd, terrifying, unnecessary, and un-apologetically Un-American to push these lies out to our neighbors. ALL DESERVE TO HEAR THE TRUTH! Not just a one-sided platform.

Council Member Bruce stated she would move that no more anonymous comments are read. This is in replace of a public comment forum where no one is allowed to walk to the pulpit anonymously. Mr. Tingey noted Council Member Bruce's concern.

Boyd Tuttle: I have been a resident of Cottonwood Heights since 2009 having moved here from New York with my family. Because we were fortunate enough to secure a lot with a bit of acreage, we have we blessed to craft out a small "hobby farm" with horses, chickens, etc. During the last 5 or 6 years, we have (unfortunately) seen our horses break out of their corrals on more than one occasion. Each and every time it seems that our gratitude goes out to our Cottonwood Heights



policemen and women who with professionalism and dispatch were the first to immediately A) alert us about the situation and B) assist us in getting these very valuable animals returned to their corrals safely, without further incident. In every case, the officers were professional and kind. Even though I probably deserved a scolding for failing to keep the animals better secured, the officers were never condescending or rude. They were remarkably friendly and courteous in every respect.

When it comes to law enforcement, I have observed these same fine officers effectively tracking down criminals and making arrests even here in our little happy valley. At no time have I ever observed, nor have I ever heard that a member of our community was mistreated or disrespected or abused in any way by our fine officers. Even though I hate to admit that I have been pulled over a time or two on our streets here in Cottonwood Heights it has almost always been for a legitimate reason, and in all of those encounters, our Cottonwood Heights police officers have always acted in good faith whether in issuing a citation or a warning, they have handled each and every situation with courtesy and efficiency. I just want to say, that I would hate to think that the day would ever come that our faithful law enforcement officers might not be on-the-job or missing in action when a desperate call goes out for a prowler in the back yard, a stolen vehicle, a precious child or a prize horse missing would be unthinkable. I cannot imagine getting a no-answer after dialing 911 or a recording that says, "sorry we no longer provide those services." A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE COTTONWOOD HTS POLICE DEPARTMENT!

Carvel Whiting: PLEASE do not give in to those who are trying to make radical changes that will weaken our ability to enforce the law. PLEASE do not listen to those who are attempting to discredit the police - especially in our community. I have watched the "anti-police" movement grow over the past few years, where the onus is always on the policeman, and never on the one resisting arrest. When something bad happens, the question is always "what did the policeman do wrong that caused this?" Never does the suspect (the person resisting arrest) bear any responsibility for what happened. This disconnect amazes me. Would this event have happened if the suspect had NOT resisted arrest? The answer is obvious. PLEASE do not give in to those who do not like laws limiting what they want to do, who are only concerned about the rights of criminals and who are trying to limit the capabilities and effectiveness of our police force. I support the Black Lives Matter initiative - in that it appears there has been a pattern of racism and abuse in certain areas of our country. That needs to be corrected.

- I think additional training in cultural sensitivity is good. But these things should not be used as a wedge to destroy our capability to keep law and order in our communities.
- But along with this cultural sensitivity training, we need to have training on the other side: what is the responsibility of the suspects, those who the police are attempting to arrest. This needs to be clearly spelled out, with appropriate consequences if the suspect does not comply. We DO NOT have a problem in Cottonwood Heights. Our police force does a good job. I know from personal experience.

Craig Weston: As a resident of Cottonwood Heights for the past 30 years, I want to express my support for Chief Russo and the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I was at the rally last

evening and was troubled by the false statements that were shared over the microphone. I have been a resident when we had unified police and CHPD, to the contrary of the statements that were made I found this to be totally wrong. When I had my car or home broken into and I called the sheriff dept, not one time did an officer ever come to my home. They simply gave me a case number and I never heard from the police thereafter. Unlike every time I had a theft when the CHPD was here, not only did the officers come to my home, but they would go to neighbors looking for surveillance footage. I even had an officer call me to notify me that my property was being sold at Play it Again Sports!!!! (I recovered some of the stolen items, thank you, officer). Never did Cottonwood Heights Police Department say here is your case number, call the insurance company.

This protest (I would rather call it a rally) for CHPD was organized by a Councilwoman who has held a grudge with the CHPD for years. This is all about what she claimed to be harassment on a drinking establishment that she frequented. The truth is the CHPD were trying to keep our streets safe. She would have rather allowed drunk drivers on the road endangering the public than having them LEGALLY pulled over after leaving the well know drinking establishment in CH (The Canyon Inn). Her claims that this was orchestrated to force the owner out is totally unfounded especially since the building is still standing. Certainly, the police force can be educated and improve and update the current policy. That does not happen when you defund ANY police department. So, again as a 30-year resident of CH we support our Police Department. Please stop the madness and witch hunt.....

Darren Croft: I would like to speak in support of the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I have had many interactions with them including:

- A burglary (my property was eventually recovered);
- Logistical and plainclothes support during a large gathering with a visiting dignitary;
- Multiple incidents where I called about suspicious activity on my secluded, dead-end street; and
- A traffic stop where I was given a ticket.

In each of these instances, the officers were professional, courteous, and respectful. I have also been extremely impressed with their response time. There was a very obvious improvement in the responsiveness and the engagement of the police when the city moved from using the county services to their own police force. I am opposed to defunding or disbanding the CHPD or contracting with the Unified Police Force and am grateful for the service of the CHPD to my family and our community.

Debbie and Tee Tyler: We feel we must take a stand in favor of our Cottonwood Heights police officers. We realize our country is at a crossroads in making basic changes to prevent the use of brutality and we agree we should. There are some bad apples in law enforcement and they should be held accountable, but we feel here in Cottonwood Heights we have the cream of the crop in the police. We know many of them and they are very professional good officers. Who of us would

want to go out and clean up the messes they deal with? Do we thank our police enough? We now have people pushing their personal vendettas and agendas. That is not a representation of the people. Yes, any vocation can improve, but it is time to show support for our honorable police. We thank Chief Russo, Chief Brenneman, and the department for doing a great job.

Diane Butler: First and most important I want to express my love and gratitude to all the brave men and women who serve us so diligently 24/7. My husband and I often comment on how nice it has been to have the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. They have answered *every* call we have made quickly and professionally. I am so saddened by the events that are going on around us. Racism is horrible and changes do need to be made. Every one of us has to take a look at ourselves to see how we can each become better. To focus on our entire police force is so unfair to those who serve us every day, those who put their lives on the line to help protect us! WE OWE THEM SO MUCH! To disrespect them in this way by defunding them is horrible! Changes can be made everywhere; much more can happen if it is done when good men and women come together with respect civility. My second point is we are all experiencing so much stress!!! Please NO MORE!!! I said to my husband I can't take one more thing and here we go again!!! Thank you Tali and those who are helping you to add to what is already too much! THANK YOU CHPD and your families. YOU ARE LOVED! WE NEED YOU.

Edie Smart: Dear officers of Cottonwood Heights Police Force. Thank you. Thank you for your service, for your kindness, for the smiles and waves when I pass by, for keeping my special part of this world a safe place for me and my family. Thank you for your professionalism and for your efforts. I cannot even imagine how your family feels when you leave home each day to face the challenges you face protecting us. Thank you to your family and you for your unselfish service. I hope you know how grateful I am and know in my own small way I am praying for your safety.

Erin Davis: I am very concerned about all the events going on in our country right now. The racist actions by the Minnesota Police were deplorable. It is important to root out any of the police force that would contribute to this kind of behavior. However, with that said, I do not condone the violence that has occurred because of protests. The peaceful protests are fine, but the actions of some to commit crime and violence are not acceptable. There are other ways to promote change. I am also saddened by the generalization of the police officers around the country that they are at fault. I do not believe this is true and I especially do not believe that the Cottonwood Heights Police officers are in this category. I would hope that if there is even one that has this problem, that they be removed. But for all of the other police officers, I believe they deserve our respect and support.

I do NOT support the idea of defunding the police force. I have been very happy with the work of the Cottonwood Heights police and they have responded to some of my calls in the past, and I appreciate their kindness and willingness to work with the citizens of Cottonwood Heights. Because of the Cottonwood Heights police, I feel that our neighborhoods are safer, our roads are safer, we have fewer drunk drivers, and overall, we have a safe community. We feel that our Police Chief, Robby Russo, has been a good chief and we support keeping him working for our city.

Dr. Gary Larsen: I would like to let you and the City Council know that I strongly support the Police Department in our City. I do not know of any racial problems that we have had here in this city. The department has done a terrific job in a very difficult occupation. Talk of defunding the department would be anarchy. I think they need to be praised for the excellent job they do. Would you please notify the City Council of my feelings?

Heather Anderson: As a lifelong citizen of Utah, and a citizen of Cottonwood Heights for 24 years I am deeply proud of our community, grateful for the service of our public leaders, and of our public servants. I was invited to attend the "police reform" rally through the Cottonwood Height's Political Facebook page by many who were annoyed, or perhaps disgusted with my personal position that I SUPPORT our law enforcement officers as a whole. Clearly, it did not matter that I also agreed that changes to policy could be made to better our system. Are you confused? I was. Wasn't this rally about reforming policy? Why can't I believe that as a society we NEED our great officers? My family attended to show our support for OUR law enforcement. We left before the reform rally began. We had our say and frankly were afraid to stay for the rally. Protesters yelling "f the police", driving up and down Bengal with their posters, rude comments, and gestures trying to start a fight. Other protesters mixing in with our rally to try and stir up problems. Some even went to the Brighton side of the road and intimidated some elderly neighbors of ours. Absolutely UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR! This wasn't yet "their time". OUR VOICES AS CITIZENS OF OUR CITY MATTER TOO!

I appreciated the mood Anna McNamer tried to set and keep as an organizer of the "reform rally". She politely wandered the crowd offering masks. I did watch the replayed recording of the "reform" rally. It appeared she continued to encourage a peaceful event. I REALLY wanted to LISTEN to what they had to say despite the angry among them. I agree a citizen review board is a WONDERFUL idea! Citizens should go through a mini police academy, go on regular ride alongs and attend court hearings to get a better understanding of what challenges our community is faced with daily. They should be educated on policies, as well as our judicial system to better understand how the laws apply and how to make a change. Is it within our city's ability to make a change, or does that change need to happen at a state or federal level? Recording 24/7 is not that simple, from my research, there is a tremendous COST. It is VERY expensive to run and store those cloud-based devices. If our city wants to invest \$70,000, or more for our own server then maybe that could happen. Maybe rally organizers would like to fund that expense?

On another note, as a citizen, when does my right to privacy come into play? Rape reports, a domestic violence assault, being notified of a death??? Those are no one else's business! Additionally, I understand that citizens who are recorded have the right to exclude body cams in court hearings. What is the point of that? If an officer cannot refuse a recording into evidence, why can a criminal? This "request to record 24/7" is not that simple, but with time, legislation, and technology I am sure it will become a reality. Why do we call the police? Is it just to say, "Hey, how's your day?" No! We call because there is a problem we need help with. Change the motto, or do not. Personally, it does not bother me. Maybe the "Reform Rally" organizers would like to acquire funding to change the motto on all the vehicles?

If anything, our officers need MORE FUNDING, to make any of these "requests" a reality. AS A CITIZEN of Cottonwood Heights I am disgusted by Tali Bruce using her position on city council

to push her personal beliefs & personal agenda. Kneeling at a City Council meeting during OUR COUNTRIES pledge has ALWAYS been disrespectful! If she feels the need to take a knee, she should do it in her own time. As a City Council member, she represents US – not HERSELF! For anyone else who chooses to take a knee, do it in a moment of silence rather than during our anthem or pledge. Disrespecting the men and women who put their lives at risk, those who have died for our freedoms deserve MORE than that terrible show of DISRESPECT!

I understand Councilwoman Bruce is the owner of a local sports bar. I also understand she is frustrated that inebriated customers have had difficulties with DUIs and believes the Police Department is harassing her customers. Perhaps attendance has gone down due to the virus, bad drinks, food, or service. Perhaps her establishment should not over serve. They should also make sure customers have a designated driver/taxi. That is on the business. Not the amazing men and women who make sure her customers do not hurt themselves or anyone else. I also understand Councilwoman Bruce extended an invitation to the president of Black Lives Matter to speak at our city. That was the final straw! BLM is not interested in "reform". I am all for a CITY "rally" or meeting with CITIZENS OF OUR CITY. You, Ms. Bruce, most certainly were not acting on behalf of OUR city's best interests. YOU, Ms. Bruce, are clearly only interested in riding the BLM national agenda, and your own. You are working the system to best work YOUR own agenda. YOU are a fantastic example of the politician we need to get out of positions of power!

I hope the city leaders were impressed by the quick actions of a few CITIZENS organizing our show of SUPPORT by word of mouth in 3 days. WE the CITIZENS of OUR city SUPPORT our officers! We are happy to have difficult conversations and do what should be done for the betterment of our citizens. Things are pretty great considering all the challenges we currently face, things can also be better, but not with a rogue self-serving city council member undermining all we have worked so hard for.

Joe Lewis: I would request that this be read in our city council meeting as I will be unable to attend. I am a resident of Cottonwood Heights. After hearing about two planned protests that will be coming to this city, I am concerned with two demands at the hands of these protests, a polarization that is increasingly pitting neighbor against neighbor, friend against friend. These two extremes, opposing views are going to crush this city. First, in a call to "de-fund" the police, I believe we are opening a door to a dangerous and grave situation. Under our previous police chief, I have experienced at the hands of our police something I have called "the god complex" - an individual in a position of authority allowing that to foster an oppressive, holier-than-thou attitude. Despite my experience, I am well aware that a few bad apples do not make every other apple bad. Second, I strongly support the NAACP and the message of equality. I have lived my life always rooting and preferring the underdogs, minorities, and the downtrodden. I have personally experienced staring down the barrels of shotguns, being in the wrong areas of inner cities while hoping to survive long enough to see my family again, and persecution for traits tied to my identity.

My skin color (though pink), my religion, and other traits and differences have been reason enough for my peers to justify berating, abuse, and lack of human decency. The worst experience I felt regarding bias was not in another part of the country, it occurred in this very state. I was physically beaten as a direct result of my religion, at the hand of Caucasian people who perceived me as

different. Both what I experienced in the past and what is happening now is an attempt to force change on others. This form of change is not lasting. It is like teaching a pig to sing - the pig will never sing and it irritates the pig. I do know that we are all biased in some ways. The "protests" that have come, both violent and peaceful, are not causing people to look inward and make changes necessary. Instead, it is creating a clamor and rush to judgment that will foster both extremes become more pronounced, and the hate and spite increasing dramatically.

Each of us needs to look inwardly and determine what changes we should be making on a personal level. Please refrain from using the lectern of protest either to obscure other issues or to increase public notoriety. You are elected officials - please maintain the decorum of the office to which you were elected. If there is a change that needs to be made in our law, policy, or procedure, please make it. I plead with you that you do not criminalize our police force. We should not burn the orchard because one apple is bad. Do not criminalize all of our police force as a bloodletting for events that have happened in other communities. Our officers do good things, even with their flaws. I do not believe that a single soul in this city has lived a perfect life that is free of bias. We are not your cash cows; you are our stewards. Please be the stewards you were elected to be.

Julie Clawson: I am a citizen of Cottonwood Heights and want to express my support of the Police Department. I am grateful they work tirelessly to protect my community and I stand with them in the face of the opposition they are facing today. I abhor the behavior of those officers who destroy and do not uphold their office as they should, and certainly think the current events in today's protest climate require examination and change where needed. I fear the world that strips our police departments of needed resources and money in an effort to satisfy the loud, angry voices, and I find it appalling and unconscionable that a sitting City Council member would organize or even support a rally protesting the very people who protect and defend our families and community and demand to defund them. Please read my comments at the city council meeting this week. I want all voices that support our Police Department to be heard.

Kelly Ballinger: I am a citizen of Cottonwood Heights and want to express my support of the Police Department. I am grateful they work tirelessly to protect my community and I stand with them in the face of the opposition they are facing today. I abhor the behavior of those officers who destroy and do not uphold their office as they should, and certainly think the current events in today's protest climate require examination and change where needed. I fear the world that strips our police departments of needed resources and money in an effort to satisfy the loud, angry voices, and I find it appalling and unconscionable that a sitting city council member would organize or even support a rally protesting the very people who protect and defend our families and community and demand to defund them. Please read my comments at the city council meeting this week. I want all voices that support our Police Department to be heard.

Kevin and Andrea Gunnell: My wife and I are happy residents of Cottonwood Heights for 8 years now. We write to you in light of recent events to express our support for the maintenance of a local police department presence. The last few weeks have brought immense sadness as we have seen communities struggle with reactions from the death of George Floyd and others who have been treated unjustly. We grieve with those families and hope that they receive justice and eventual peace, and we voice our strongest condemnation to racism in any form. It is our hope that a knee-jerk reaction of defunding or removing our local police force is not an action that is taken

by our elected leaders here in Cottonwood Heights. To us, that would be a significant error of judgment and would definitely-not reflect our views as your contingents. Our experience with the Cottonwood Heights Police Department has been positive, and we are grateful for their presence. We feel that the poor, unjustifiable actions of a few should not tarnish the badges of the overwhelming majority of officers who proudly and honorably represent their profession with dignity and fairness as they protect our homes and community. Please do not take any action to defund or decommission or remove an important part of our community.

RKW Watts: It is clear that Councilwoman Bruce is confused about her priorities. As a City Council member, you would think she would have a higher regard for the citizens of Cottonwood Heights than to plan any kind of protest in our city that had the potential to become violent as we see in many cities throughout the country each day. She could not possibly guarantee a peaceful protest, and it seems she invited potential danger to our doorsteps ... to the very neighborhoods she was elected to represent and protect! Black Lives Matter ... as do all other lives. Managing city budgets should be done through the process she was elected to be a part of. If she did not like the outcomes, she's free to keep trying. I honor and support Cottonwood Heights Police Department, imperfect as they may be, but who are sworn to protect our city against crime and violence. Perhaps Ms. Bruce should resign from her City duties and find another organization to support! That may "Solve the Problem".

Christine Jones: I have become aware of a movement to defund the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. As a citizen of Cottonwood Heights, I want to express my deep opposition to such a move. No doubt, there are some officers in our nation who have acted in oppressive ways. However, I continue to believe the vast majority are upright and trying to do the right thing. I support Chief Russo and the men and women of his department. NO DEFUNDING!

Larry: I have become aware of a movement to defund the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. As a citizen of Cottonwood Heights, I want to express my deep opposition to such a move. No doubt, there are some officers in our nation who have acted in oppressive ways. However, I continue to believe the vast majority are upright and trying to do the right thing. I support Chief Russo and the men and women of his department. NO DEFUNDING!

Mindy Whiting: It has come to my attention that there is a proposal to defund the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I am sickened and saddened by this proposal. I feel safe living in Cottonwood Heights because of the presence of the Cottonwood Height Police Department. I feel safe knowing that they are constantly in the area patrolling and looking out for the safety and protection of our city. I have never had any negative encounters with any of them. I ask that you please strongly consider continuing to fund the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. The safety of our community depends on it.

Michael Hannan: I am currently a resident at the Stonehaven Condominiums and have been a resident of Cottonwood Heights since 1981. Throughout the years I have had many occasions to be grateful for the police and their vigilance in helping to keep our community safe. As a 39-year resident of Cottonwood Heights and as a veteran of the United States Air Force I would like to state that the behavior of Council Member Tali Bruce, she kneeled during the Pledge of Allegiance, was brazenly disrespectful as well as selfish and uncalled for. There is an appropriate time and

place for airing opinions and expressing dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in a community, state, or nation. But doing so and in such a manner as Ms. Bruce displayed was totally inappropriate. Her kneeling was a shameful display of disrespect for not only the flag and the council but also the citizens of her district and the entire city of Cottonwood Heights. She is not on the city council to protest or commiserate or grieve, she is there to represent the individuals and families who live in her district and to do so in a mature and thoughtful manner. Whatever she was protesting or fretting about, however sincere her intentions may have been, what she did was a slap in the face to the residents of our city. It is my feeling that at the very least she should be publicly reprimanded and she should be asked to write a public apology to the residents of Cottonwood Heights. If she is not held accountable then I must sadly acknowledge being ashamed of my city council. There is an old adage that states that just because you can does not mean you should. Ms. Bruce should have known better; she has eroded the confidence of many many residents in representative government by acting in such an irresponsible and selfish way.

Mike Hanson: As a citizen of District 3 I would like to voice my support and thanks for our Police Department and the efforts they made while serving during the riot situation in Salt Lake City. It is my understanding that a few of our officers sustained injuries, some needed treatment others cared not to report until the situation was under control. It is these brave officers that serve our community daily here in Cottonwood Heights. My gratitude to you all! With the popular movement today to criticize and defame law enforcement and particularly from my elected official, I believe that this is not the narrative that rings through our district. I have had many conversations with constituents within this district that do not support Councilperson Bruce and her constant negative narrative especially concerning our Police Chief. I will keep this comment as respectful as possible by ending with continual thanks and respect for our officers who serve and protect our city. They reflect the leadership that professionally trains and guides them.

Michael Smith: I am in support of our local Police Department as well as police generally. I find it highly troubling that anyone would consider removing support or "defunding" the police. I can go about my life without fear because the police have my back. I do not need to worry about who is bigger or meaner or more armed. The reason I do not need to worry is because of the police. Society can function because of laws and the enforcement of laws. If the police are removed from the equation then laws become meaningless and society suffers as anarchy takes hold. Please let the police in Cottonwood Heights know that they are very much appreciated. Law enforcement is an honorable profession. Most people do not make a lot of noise, and those same people greatly value the peace and security that are provided by police. Please do not think that your service is not valued. The noise and confusion caused by the few does not represent the vast majority.

Nan Crandall: The police presence in Cottonwood Heights has improved since we hired our in-house police force. I feel much safer having our own officers who are focused on our community. My dad has commented that there is always a lot in the news regarding Cottonwood Heights and my answer to him was that we have such a great police force that more things are being handled and discovered. I am grateful for our police force and desire to leave them just as they are, protecting my family, neighbors, and community.

Pamela Hannan: I support our CHPD men and women. They are doing an outstanding job! I am for doing everything we can to give them the training, tools, and any other support necessary to



help them with their job to uphold law and order and keep our city and our citizens safe. Defunding the police department and the men and women in it is totally the brainstorm of people who have no clue how to safely run this city. Let's not tie the hands that so ably serve us. Thank you CHPD!!

Patsy Young: I would like to express my concern for our Police Department. Considering the unfair condemnation of all police expressed in our country in these last few weeks, it's very sad that our officers and Chief Russo have to endure that on top of all the duress they have endured for the past few years from a member of our city council. I do not blame Chief Russo for suing the city and particularly the councilwoman who has brought this unpleasantness to what was until her tenure a peaceful, well-run place to live. I support Chief Russo, our officers, and those who work in the CHPD. We need to stop the nonsense and understand that there is a need in Cottonwood Heights for local police. I once heard someone say, "You don't need the police until you need the police." In the recent past, my family needed the police. There was an ongoing situation that created fear and uncertainty. Having the police close by during that period helped my family feel safe through a tense situation. I would just like to add my voice to the many in this city who support law enforcement in general and especially our Cottonwood Heights Police Department and Chief Russo. We have a wonderful mayor and many strong honest caring council members. Please solve this without causing more undue stress and problems for our great Police Department and Chief Russo.

Paul Ellingson: I respectfully request that this letter be read in the next City Council Meeting. I would like to express my support for the Cottonwood Heights Police. I recognize that no police department is perfect. I also recognize that they serve an imperfect people. I am grateful that when a stoned 20-year-old shows up on my back porch demanding to be let in at 3:00 a.m., that the Cottonwood Heights police show up in force in a couple of minutes to deal with the situation. I am grateful for their service showing up at 4:00 am to a fire in the apartments next to our home helping rescue and keep our neighbors warm. I am grateful for their looking out for drunk drivers in our neighborhoods because drunk drivers have caused great damage to my wife's family. Imagine if we were to treat other professions like some are treating our officers. What if we applied these same standards, we have seen in the past three weeks to teachers? How horrible that would be. Just imagine the hurt it would cause a teacher and their family if a vocal minority showed up at their school on a regular basis and called our teachers disgraceful names, threw bricks at them spit on them, threw every nasty bodily excretion on them, told them we want to defund them, said that the only good teacher is a dead teacher, burnt their classroom, and then we demand that no punishment come on the criminal for their crimes because we were frustrated with a few bad teachers (yes there are a few bad teachers mixed in with all the thousands of amazing teachers!). Now imagine if a protest was organized by the school principal. Can you even imagine? Of course, we would never do that. That would be absolutely shameful.

But some are doing that exact thing to our officers, to the men and women that are protecting our freedoms. Those that are calling to defund or redistribute funding to other services disgrace some dear friends of mine who live Cottonwood Heights. Ten years ago, they lost their son and father, who was serving as a police officer here in the Salt Lake Valley. My 23-year-old friend was left parentless at the age of 13 because his father gave his life for people like us, serving us, putting up with the most reprehensible people every single day. These friends suffer every single day because

their son and dad gave his life for us and for the people that hated him. Shame on those that are disgracing a lost son and father, who was doing his best to protect our freedoms! Shame on them!

I feel so disappointed that some of our leaders and teachers in this amazing community are leading this crusade against these men and women that are protecting their freedoms. I hope that the citizens of Cottonwood Heights do not have to pay the short term and long-term costs of these antagonists. Please protect our police force. Please honor the sacrifice they are making. Our neighbor that lost his life nearly 10 years ago once told me how difficult his job was. He lamented that not one call on the radio was to invite them over for a BBQ or to wish them a happy birthday. Instead, it was always to deal with some nasty situation. Might I propose that at least once a year we hold a significant celebration for these men and women. Where we come together as a community and pay honor to them and their families for the sacrifice they make for us. The families of these officers need to know that we support them and the sacrifice they are giving to us. Perhaps one of the evenings of Butlerville days could be exclusively devoted to these men and women and their families. After all, some of them will give their lives for us, and their children will lose a father or mother and parents will lose a son or daughter and a wife or husband will lose their spouse. I suggest we honor them instead of disrespecting them.

Philip Reichert: I am writing as a concerned citizen and grateful patron of the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I believe that such an absurd proposal to defund our City's Police Department by allocating its resources elsewhere and thus eliminate our Police Department is treasonous, seditious, unpatriotic, unconstitutional, and outright disgraceful. This City Councilperson, Tali Bruce, is an alarming figure who does not deserve to serve our city, whose views align itself with radical Marxist, Communist groups were seen in Seattle Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone aka Capitol Hill Organized Protest whose goal is to overthrow our American Government and replace it with Communism through the means of a violent revolutionary takeover. How dare this Councilperson take away from the constituents our rights of the people to be supported in our defense and civil society for some unrighteous usurpation of our sovereignty, liberty, and American Constitutional government, where we are represented and the rights of all are protected. The protection of the people is the solemn duty of the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. To deny our protection is to deny our Liberty and turn our freedom over to despots and anarchists. I strongly urge the City to hear the voice of the people and do the duty entrusted to it by maintaining a well-funded Police Department. I also support Chief Russo and the officers, both women and men, who are heroes of this city.

Rachel Davis: I have been a resident of Cottonwood Heights for the past 13 years. It is a place where I have felt safe and protected. Much of this feeling is due to the wonderful service of our police department. Five years ago my husband and I purchased a house that backed Antzac Park. We were happy to stay in Cottonwood Heights because we loved the area. In the summer months, we have needed to call on the police regularly because of loud and sometimes unlawful activity in the park. All of the officers that have responded to our calls have been patient, kind, and respectful to not only my husband and I but to the people in the park that were participating in these sometimes-illegal acts. They also responded quickly once our call was placed to the non-emergency number. In my opinion, the men and women that serve in the Cottonwood Heights Police Department are a huge asset to our city. They provide safety and security in a world of turmoil. I disagree with police brutality. I also disagree with defunding police departments.

Especially departments that have done such a marvelous job at upholding the law in their cities and areas. I believe the Cottonwood Heights Police Department has done just this. Please do not put our city at risk of crime and other problems by dismantling and/or defunding our Police Department.

Ron Schrader: I have been made aware that one of our City Council Members is organizing a protest and a movement to defund and eventually eliminate our Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I am appalled that a representative in our city government would stoop so low! I support Chief Russo and all of the members of our police department 100%. We owe these brave and honorable people a great debt for their willingness to serve and protect the citizens of our community at great personal risk. To do something as foolish, reckless, and disgraceful as defunding or eliminating our police force is a big step toward destroying our city, our state, and our country.

Roxann Forbush: I have lived in Cottonwood Heights for 30 years. I have worked with our Police Department for emergency preparedness they work so hard all the time- they care about EVERYONE. We are so thankful for our police force. I am so wondering why a member of the City Council would want to defund or whatever they want to do against our Police Department. We love & support the Police Department. Maybe the Councilperson should work in the Police Department's shoes for a while and make judgments in seconds.

Salli Brown: I would like to lend my voice of support for the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. As a lifelong resident of this community, I am grateful for the visible presence of our officers, for their quick response and for their professionalism. I feel safe in our community. Being a law enforcement officer is high stress, and sometimes dangerous job that is under-appreciated and underpaid. Although improvements can always be made as we learn from experience, overall the CHPD is doing a good job and should be recognized for their efforts. Thank you for your professionalism and dedication to making our community safe and comfortable.

Tom Forbush: It has come to my attention that a member of our own City Council is organizing a protest against our Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I have lived in Cottonwood Heights for 45 years and love this city dearly. It is unbelievable and incomprehensible that we have members of our own city Council that want to ultimately defund and eliminate our Police Department. We fought too hard to get our own police force that answers to you, to the mayor, and to us as citizens in our own city. This is the dumbest and most idiotic proposal I have ever heard. I stand against it 100%.

Troy Ripplinger: I was grateful to be involved in showing support to our police yesterday, however, I am saddened for the reason it came about - through the misguided decisions of Council Member Tali Bruce. After I saw what BLM coupled with Antifa did to our State Capitol, I was shocked to hear that a council member from Cottonwood Heights would align herself with them. As a citizen, I could not imagine she would chance bringing that to our neighborhood just to make a point. I have always expected that our local elected officials should be common-sense rational thinking people, but she did not demonstrate that yesterday. I am sure she has some legit concerns, but her methods have alienated and damaged her ability to encourage people to listen. If I could offer some counsel to Tali. Though I mean no ill, you do not strike me as someone who tries to

understand before you act. I have made those mistakes myself. I have found that when I take the time to watch, observe, listen, ask honest questions, and ponder it all, it has helped me understand why things happen the way they do.

It changes my perspective, opens my heart, and increases my appreciation and respect towards people who do things differently than I would. Once that is achieved, I am better positioned to offer the right suggestions to an audience that will listen. Instead of forcing people, we move as a group. We move rationally towards a better position that we can all be happy with and united. It is a win/win situation. With all that being said, I do offer a sincere thank you to Tali. Yesterday's events gave me and the community an opportunity to reflect on the positive influence of our community and the efforts of law enforcement to keep us safe. To reflect that we live in a relatively safe environment. To reflect that many of us are unaware of the sacrifice law enforcement does for us each day. To reflect on the kind acts of service that they do to the community whether it is helping someone across the street, fixing a flat tire, closing a garage door, keeping our streets safe, or helping resolve a domestic crisis. To reflect that their children and spouse have to worry on a daily basis whether the husband/father will come home alive at the end of his shift. To not know of the vile and terrible things that people say to them because they are frustrated. And lastly, a quote from Benjamin Franklin. "freedom isn't the ability to do what you want, it's the responsibility to do what you ought". Anarchy is not the answer. Maximum freedom requires maximum responsibility. What makes our community great and helps our law enforcement is the individual efforts of each citizen to be personally responsible for their lives and the kindness we show towards each other.

Val Butcher: My name is Val Butcher. My wife Jan and I have lived in Cottonwood Heights for 40 years. We have raised five children here. All graduated from Brighton High School. We have had several occasions over our time here when we have needed the police for various reasons. We have always received prompt, courteous service from our officers and we consider it an absolute travesty that any possible discussion should take place to reduce our force or their pay. Their pay should be increased. My father was a police officer for 42 years. He was shot and stabbed. Many nights I sat with my mother wondering if he would make it home that night. Yet each day he proudly wore his uniform, straightened his badge, and headed off proudly to serve and protect". It is appalling to me to think that a councilwoman supposedly representing Cottonwood Heights could possibly imagine that our citizens would want less police protection and to disrespect them as she has. Thank you to all those officers looking out for our little city between the canyons".

*Thomas Sprunt:* I would like to have my email read during the next City Council Meeting or the one addressing the possibility of disbanding or defunding our Police Department. Has this country gone mad? Did the nation lose their cool and disband our police departments after the Rodney King incident? The events leading to the death of George Floyd are inexcusable and tragic. Do we have officers in our country that are untrained and lacking in judgment? This is very possible. What we have here is a training issue. Cosmetologists at the high school level get more training than our police officers at the academy (if there is one.) If you disband our Police Department you are asking for chaos and anarchy. Leaving the nation with only one alternative, martial law. This is not the answer and it is not freedom. Protests and freedom of speech are a right we all have as Americans and we should do it peaceably. Riots and unlawful looting are not acceptable and if we do not have a Police Department, who is going to put an end to it? Who protects the innocent

bystanders? No one will. I support our Cottonwood Heights Police Department. I do not believe they are corrupt and I rely upon them for protection, justice, and order. Stop the madness and let's get back to living our lives.

Roger Kehr and Melissa Fields: On behalf of the Cottonwood Heights Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee and the PTOS Dog Park subcommittee, we'd like to express our gratitude to the Mayor, City Council and City Staff in responding to residents' clear interest in establishing an off-leash dog park within Cottonwood Heights. As you are aware, the results of the Cottonwood Heights' 2019 Official Citizen Survey revealed that 54 percent of the citizens surveyed were in favor of dedicating a portion of a park for off-leash dogs. Sixty-nine percent of dog owners (who make up half of the city's population) were in favor as well. An off-leash dog park was the survey's most desired improvement in the Parks section of the survey and the "Bark in the Park" event was the second most attended City event in 2019. We support the budget amendment to allocate funds for an off-leash area at the Ferguson Canyon Overflow Lot and look forward to helping the City complete the four action items noted within the budget outline in regard to this long-requested amenity, in particular, continuing to engage the PTOS for design feedback and participating in a public open house or other public feedback events/efforts. Mr. Tingey reiterated that emails received after the designated 5:00 p.m. deadline will be forwarded to the City Council.

There were no further public comments.

Mayor Peterson expressed appreciation to the residents of Cottonwood Heights who have shared their thoughts. He opened the meeting to Council Member comments. He believed doing so was appropriate based on the uniqueness of the level and magnitude of the comments received.

Council Member Tali Bruce reported that she found a common thread regarding a false narrative that residents had been fed regarding defunding the police. To the best of her knowledge, that conversation had never been brought up by herself or anyone known to her. She believed it was easy to manipulate with fear and nothing is more terrifying than personal injury or assault. Now more than ever, the nation needs to heal and she explained she has never seen such division in her lifetime.

Council Member Petersen was unsure whether those in attendance at the previous night's meeting saw the difference in the attitude and tenor of those in support of the police force versus those that were screaming and holding vulgar signs in opposition. He told Council Member Bruce that he was very offended that she would bring that type of behavior to the City. He believed many were not from Cottonwood Heights and brought in other protests she had supported. He emphasized that no one condones what has happened in another state and he was offended and sad that it had to come to Cottonwood Heights. It was very disruptive and if fact-checked, it was all emotion with very little substance.

Council Member Petersen commented that it is easy to twist, as he believed Council Member Bruce has a tendency to do. She has expressed her support for the police force and then attacks them. There are many instances on record where she has attacked the Police Department and claimed they are not being transparent on budgeting followed by comments on what a wonderful job administrators are doing to make the most out of every dollar. He noted that her kneeling

during the Pledge of Allegiance was never an issue. His frustration was with her claiming that the pro police rally was held due to her actions. He considered it to be very disingenuous.

Council Member Bracken stated that ~~w~~with respect to the activities of the previous night, he appreciated the representation of both sides with no significant instances. He expressed concern with the implication that fear and manipulation were involved and believed it screams hypocrisy.

Mayor Peterson appreciated the willingness for decorum and civility in the discussion. He attended the Downtown Salt Lake rallies and viewed both sides that included both positive and disturbing issues. He was also in attendance at the previous night's gathering, which was basically peaceful. He emphasized that all lives matter and he personally believed that Cottonwood Heights has an outstanding Police Department and officers. Any outstanding organization is always striving to improve and much of the requests asking for reform include imposing chokeholds, increasing sensitivity training, or limiting excessive force. Many of those are already in place but he was in favor of revisiting those issues and being better educated. He believed the message was laid out on both sides of respect, looking at how they are operating, and always progressing and changing. Plans to begin educating themselves and providing feedback were scheduled for July.

Council Member Bruce explained that Council Member Petersen is fairly new to the Council position and encouraged him to learn the fine nuances of holding budget items highly accountable while at the same time supporting the staff or police officers that those budgets address. She explained that if they equalize unlimited funding in support of the police, he is not being accountable to the constituency and taxes will continue to climb. She emphasized that it is his job to represent those constituents, their tax dollars, and concerns about where that money is spent. She believed that police support equals funding and increases year over year is a dangerous stance. Being accustomed to extraordinary privilege, equality can feel like suppression and that element exists in her neighborhood and they are her friends and family.

Council Member Bruce commented that Council Member Petersen put himself on a pedestal and was not willing to listen. She stated that the speakers at the rally were fantastic and the messages they shared were heartfelt, accurate, historical in context, educational, and inspiring. She wished that every one of the counter-protesters had heard to learn. She pointed out that we learn when we listen to each other. She stated that she hears the fear and white supremacy from the counter protesters and they want things to remain as they already have been in their perceived tidy suburbia. She commented that it is time to listen to both sides and to feel and hear the pain from those who are being suppressed, targeted, discriminated against, bullied, and harassed. She found it interesting that Council Member Petersen was quick to pick up on signs and posters he found offensive but ignored the fact the police were politicized by way of posters all around City Hall, which the taxpayers pay for and found it highly offensive. She commented that vehicles and trucks with Trump flags drove by at high speeds and police drove back and forth with their lights and sirens on. She was frustrated and felt like she was a lone voice. She was sad that the Council does not stand up and be a community for everyone.

Mayor Peterson believed the Police Department was being criticized unfairly. The City has outstanding officers and they should not all be stereotyped and overly criticized. He agreed, however, that improvements can be made. He hoped the City could move forward.

Council Member Bruce echoed Mayor Peterson's remarks and believed the City has fantastic officers. She took offense to the claim that all of the officers hate her. She knew that was not the case. Some officers are dedicated to protecting and serving and not bullying, harassing, or intimidating. She emphasized that to equate their budget responsibility with love of the officers is a nuance that needs to be understood.

Mayor Peterson expressed concern that the Police Department does not feel supported based on communication over the last several weeks. He desired to send a better message and to listen to all sides.

Council Member Bracken stated that Council Member Bruce has called out Council Member Petersen for the second week in a row for being inexperienced. He emphasized that if that is the measure of being a good Councilperson, that is a dangerous tact. He considered it highly inappropriate.

Council Member Bruce believed it was perfectly acceptable for there to be a learning curve for a new Council Member and her comments were not intended to be derogatory.

Mayor Peterson pointed out that each Council Member is elected by their constituent and respected as elected officials.

### **3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **3.1 Trees and Park Strip Landscaping Ordinance – Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson.**

Community and Economic Development Director, Mike Johnson reported that the Tree Ordinance was initiated several months ago to better regulate trees and public rights-of-way as well as hazard trees and tree preservation. Staff went through an extensive public process with the purpose being to reiterate the City's goals and priorities regarding trees in public areas, define the responsibility of the City and the public, provide procedures for abatement for private tree hazards, establish provisions for the protection of public trees and existing onsite trees, and to define standards for park strip trees and landscaping. The ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Commission, Architectural Review Committee, and the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee who unanimously recommended approval to the City Council.

Mayor Peterson commended Mr. Johnson and staff for their excellent work in creating the ordinance and believed it will go a long way toward enhancing greenery throughout the City.

### **4.0 PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **4.1 Proposed Budget Amendment for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year – Administrative Services and Finance Director Scott Jurges.**

Administrative Services and Finance Director, Scott Jurges presented the proposed budget amendment for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. There were eight adjustments pertaining to the General

Fund with one for the CDRA fund. The proposed adjustments included \$38,000 in new expenses and \$33,000 in new revenue for a net of \$5,000 in increased City funding. The proposed adjustments were as follows:

- windshield replacement;
- DUI overtime reimbursements within the Police Department;
- K-9 donation received in late 2019;
- Services provided for Target Black Friday sale;
- JAG Grant received for police training of \$8,001;
- State Asset Forfeiture Grant for \$2,500;
- Sale of unclaimed police evidence;
- Central Wasatch Commission bus service contribution in the amount of \$5,000; and
- Final \$750,000 from Salt Lake County for the Canyons Center parking structure.

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.

## **5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Consideration of Ordinance 341 Approving an Amendment to the 2019-2020 Budget.**

Mayor Peterson reported that the above ordinance approves an amendment to the 2019-2020 budget.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to approve Ordinance 341. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5.2 Consideration of Ordinance 342 Adopting a Final Budget for the Period of 1 July 2020 through 30 June 2021; Making Appropriations for the Support of the city of Cottonwood Heights for such Period, and Determining the Rate of Tax and Levying Taxes Upon All Real and Personal Property Within the city of Cottonwood Heights.**

Mr. Jurgens reported that the above ordinance involves consideration of the adoption of a final budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This is the same as the budget presented for the Tentative Budget. Two items were changed and include an increase of \$13,137 in property taxes from additional new growth bringing the total new growth to \$63,000. The second was a decrease in the Unified Fire Authority (“UFA”) contract of \$19,000 from what was originally anticipated and included in the Tentative Budget. He explained that the Certified Tax Rate of .001898 will need to be adopted as well as part of the budget allowing staff to input that into the State Tax Commission’s website.



Mr. Tingey stated that they begin the budget the first of the year and included preliminary projections for the entire year. They worked with department heads to determine the details and needs within each department. A Council Retreat was held that allowed members to give input and direction regarding priorities and expectations related to the process. They then formulated the budget working with department heads and committees. Due to the challenges of COVID-19, they reevaluated the revenue and expenses and continued with the compensation and budget committees. A budget comparison document was prepared to be transparent in comparing other communities regarding services based on population. This had been a very open and transparent process and one that he and Mr. Jurgens took a great deal of pride in.

Council Member Bracken stated on transparency that as mentioned at the last meeting, the annual budget process produces budgets that are award-winning and recognized as being informative, transparent, and of use to our citizens by THE experts in the field – the Government Finance Officers Association. Furthermore, the city’s finances are audited each year, again by licensed and certified professionals in the field. Each time they have received clean opinions. Therefore, any claims contrary to those findings, or implications that somehow there is some ‘higher level’ of ‘extreme transparency’ or ‘super honesty’ He finds to be specious and misguided. Adding expansive adjectives to buzzwords does not alter fact that the city’s budgets are excellent. While there may be legitimate differences of opinion on allocation of overhead, being a ‘lone wolf’ or being on the opposite side of the consensus simply means that that opinion did not carry the day, it should not, and does not, equate to being abused or harassed. Council Member Bracken reminded that the Mayor has asked that the council undertake this process respectfully. He took that to mean leaving out hyperbole, clichés, mediaspeak, and threadbare accusations. Adding superlatives to buzzwords does not make a fact a falsehood or a falsehood into fact. Not for any person - regardless of who they are. The council ought to strive to honor the truth and the consensus – even if it does not align with our chosen personal paradigm.

On budgeting, Council Member Bracken stated that comments on the police budget such as “the majority of the Council would make this choice no matter the cost” is not only patently false (at least for him) but has no place in civil discussion. It implies either ignorance or malicious intent on the part of other members of the council. Even if one believed that to be true, some tact and decorum ought to be in order. He stated that Scott Jurgens compiled an excellent comparison of neighboring cities’ budgets broken down by department – no small feat. And despite being praised for his skillset and abilities, was also derided because last year’s numbers were somehow “MORE” accurate despite both he and Mr. Tingey clearly stating that the result of this year’s analysis were much more thorough and useful than those put together last year. Praising the ‘experts’ and then telling them they are ‘wrong’ is incongruous and contradictory. He proceeded to state that Doug Petersen’s comments were dismissed by ‘well you were not here last year’ and followed up by more misstatements of fact – specifically that police costs were somehow closer to \$8 million and that costs this year were ‘dialed back’ through reallocation of expenses. Neither is remotely true. There was no ‘dialing back’ or significant re-allocation of overhead in this year’s budget as compared to last year. Council Member Bracken and Council Member Mikell did not request such overhaul in their budget sub-committee, and even if they had, a decision such as that would need to come before the entire council as it would require a significant change in our process – again a process that produces a budget that is recognized as transparent, exceptional, and that follows

accepted accounting principles. Repeating a false statement does not make it fact, nor does adding an exaggerated adjective to a catchword.

Council Member Bracken proceeded clarifying for residents that Cottonwood Heights City's Property Tax rate for 2019 was .2002%. The Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (that funds UPD) had a property tax rate of .2079%. So, residents of Kearns, Magna, White City, Emigration Canyon, Copperton, and unincorporated Willow Creek, and Granite pay 3.84% more in property tax for just their police services than Cottonwood Heights residents pay in property taxes for all city services.

Council Member Bracken then addressed outsourcing by explaining that many of the city's services can be outsourced, and most have been at one point or another. When the city first incorporated, outsourcing was the best method to keep providing the same services that citizens had come to expect. However, one of the city's first non-statutorily required hires, was a code enforcement officer – because the citizens wanted it. From time to time the council has taken the time to study other services to see if there was a better way to provide them. When handed a bill from the county telling the council our Animal Services was more than doubling in cost with a reduction in service level, the council looked into it and found out that they could provide better service for less cost by doing it in-house. At the last council meeting, the council renewed a contract with the Recreation Center to provide services to the city's parks, trails, and open spaces. That contract has changed over the years as the council has taken some aspects of the out-sourced services in-house to our public works department. That is a great example of the city's history of looking at a service to determine the best way to provide it. Council Member Bracken stated that Public Works and Police services have been thoroughly vetted. Two of the many factors in deciding to change are having transparency and direct control over those budgets. The council has the right and the duty as elected officials to review the budget of each city department. Asking questions is fine but when, in reality, those questions are just thinly veiled accusations and condemnations a hostile and combative situation is often the result.

Council Member Bracken then concluded by addressing bullying. He stated that the terms 'bullying' 'harassment' and 'abuse' were used in relation to the city's budget process. He found those terms inflammatory. He stated that he did not see any evidence to support such accusations. Disagreeing with someone's opinion, does NOT rise to the level of those chosen terms. They reek more of victim-playing and attention-seeking. Such methods are disingenuous and are typically used to elicit sympathy to alter opinion when the facts do not support a personal paradigm. Council Bracken explained that he and Councilmember Mikell disagreed on several budget topics but did so without resorting to name-calling or incendiary remarks. He has sat with Councilmember Bruce last year in the Benefits and Compensation committee. He has attended the city's budget retreats both years. Each person has had adequate opportunity to have their say, offer up suggestions and to be heard. Implying any less is deceptive. He will not be manipulated into a myopic and twisted view of the city's budget process or allow it to be hijacked or publicly denigrated to succor support for a personal agenda. The citizens deserve better. The majority of the city's citizens have clearly stated they appreciate the way the council has done things. The city's staff has worked tirelessly to produce another excellent budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; and he thanked Mr. Tingey, Mr. Jorges and all the others for their efforts.

Council Member Bruce apologized and believed she had been completely understood. She took full accountability for voicing her concerns too late into the budget discussion. She suggested that the City go department by department and allocate how much is spent on City staff and how much is spent on Police Services. She understood that the City does not allocate in that way and it is perfectly legal and acceptable by accounting standards. She supported the idea of comparing what Cottonwood Heights spends in relation to other cities. As a business owner, she factors in the rental cost per square foot and believed that was something the City had not taken into account. She reported that the Police Department occupies 16,000 square feet of prime real estate on the east side where the average UPD office is approximately 4,000 square feet in size. She appreciated the beautiful facility but suggested they be candid about the cost associated with it. She reiterated that she did not bring this to the table soon enough to be considered in this year's budget and apologized. She stated that it was done for personal reasons to gain peace of mind and uphold her integrity. She was seeking business level accountability for every dollar spent, which she does in her business. Speaking as a taxpayer, it is the level of transparency she seeks. She understands and respects the City's expectations but will continue to ask in support of the voters she represents.

Council Member Petersen stated that they have reviewed the budget transparency issues line by line but felt it could be reviewed further. He asked staff if there was anything further that can be done to be more efficient and transparent.

Mayor Peterson reported that he spent 20 years doing indirect cost accounting in Salt Lake County and tracked every indirect cost. It can be done, but they would need to discuss it further as a Council and staff. In all of his years in accounting, he has found that there are multiple ways to create a budget and all are accurate. As a Council with differences of opinions, they follow a process that all have agreed to. When they met as a Council and staff at the Retreat, it was clear that that was the direction they agreed to. He suggested that moving forward if they wish to modify items further, it will be placed on the Retreat Agenda and they can set those priorities. He confirmed that the City is always striving to be better and the implications have to be considered. He appreciated Council Member Bruce recognizing the lateness of her request and hoped to be able to move forward.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to approve Ordinance 342. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Nay, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed 3-to-1.

**5.3     Consideration of Resolution 2020-27 Approving Entry into an Interlocal Agreement with Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area for Public Property Services.**

Mayor Peterson reported that the above resolution approves entry into an Interlocal Agreement with Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area for Public Property Services.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruce moved to approve Resolution 2020-27. Council Member Bracken seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.4     Consideration of Resolution 2020-28 Approving Entry into an Interlocal Agreement for Participation as a Co-Permittee under UPDES Permit No. UTS000001.**

Public Works Director, Matt Shipp reported that the above resolution approves entry into an Interlocal Agreement for participation as a Co-Permittee under Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“UPDES”). Cottonwood Heights is working with other entities in the Valley as part of the permit for stormwater discharge.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruce moved to approve Resolution 2020-28. Council Member Bracken seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.5     Consideration of Resolution 2020-29 Approving Reappointments to the Planning Commission.**

Mayor Peterson reported that the above resolution approves the reappointment of Jesse Allen and Dan Mills to the Planning Commission.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to approve Resolution 2020-29. Council Member Bruce seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.6     Consideration of Resolution 2020-30 Approving Reappointments to Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee.**

Mayor Peterson reported the above resolution approves the reappointment of Greg Hilbig, Bruce Jorgensen, and Michael Menssen to the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee. The committee was formed two years prior and this is the first reappointment.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruce moved to approve Resolution 2020-30. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**6.0     CONSENT CALENDAR**

**6.1     Approval of the City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2020.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Bracken moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 2, 2020. Council Member Petersen seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Bruce-Abstained, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Mr. Tingey reported that they will continue to reevaluate the current situation and the possibility of meeting again in person will depend on the Governor's timeline. He attended the UFA meeting and received split input from the Board when posed with the same question. Many were not comfortable meeting.

**7.0     ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Bruce moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bracken. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 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, June 16, 2020.*

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes  
T Forbes Group  
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: July 21, 2020