

## **Governing Body Minutes – August 25, 2020**

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, August 25, 2020. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in special session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Hiller, Valdivia-Alcala, Duncan, Emerson and Lesser -5; and the following Councilmembers participated remotely: Padilla, Naeger, and Dobler - 3. Mayor De La Isla presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Ortiz -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Joseph Ledbetter provided the invocation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present in the chamber.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala asked the Lord to watch over those that are poor and oppressed and people of color. She recognized the Kaw, Kickapoo, Sioux and Osage Tribes.

Councilmember Hiller thanked all advocates and staff involved for providing a platform of communication. She recognized the emotion and challenges associated with the topics being discussed and expressed her appreciation to those providing their input. She stated she looks forward to reviewing the issues and charting a plan of action.

Councilmember Ortiz entered the meeting via Zoom.

Brent Trout, City Manager, stated he would provide an overview of each item followed by questions from the Governing Body. He stated City Attorney Lisa Robertson was participating remotely via Zoom.

A PRESENTATION on the recapping of the events and actions of the City of Topeka Police Department and citizen interaction since 2016 was presented by Brent Trout, City Manager.

A PRESENTATION regarding Qualified Immunity was presented by Brent Trout, City Manager.

A PRESENTATION regarding Public Employer-Employee Relations Act (PEERA) was presented by Brent Trout, City Manager.

A PRESENTATION on the duties and responsibilities of the Independent Police Auditor compared with a Citizen Review Board was presented by Brent Trout, City Manager.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she understands that Qualified Immunity seems to be a moot point at the local level; however, there seems to be a move at the state level to hold the local level accountable. She stated many in the community believe the Independent Police Auditor position was not completely independent and people want more transparency and accountability within the police force.

Mayor De La Isla provided a brief overview of the public comment protocol and rules of decorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT was provided by the following individuals:

Juanice Crowley requested that a citizen review board be independent from the City to avoid conflict of interest. She stated all citizens are asking for accountability of police officers.

Ron Gish expressed his appreciation to Governing Body members and staff for holding the special meeting. He clarified the Back the Blue organization supports law enforcement and condemns any type of criminal activity. He encouraged folks to attend the Citizen's Police Academy to help them understand a police officer's job. He questioned if the rise in crime was a direct result of the Police Department eliminating proactive policing.

Richard Johnson spoke to his advocacy efforts in the community. He referenced trust and social distancing and the importance of understanding a police officer's duties as a whole. He stated the City of Topeka needs to revert back to old school policing and employ more officers in certain areas of the city.

Joseph Ledbetter spoke in support of the Topeka Police Department and stated he believes 98% of Topeka citizens support the Police Department. He spoke in opposition of implementing constraints that prevent police officers from doing their job effectively. He commended Police Chief Bill Cochran for his successful programs related to mental health issues and the elimination of gangs in the Hi-Crest Neighborhood.

Dawn BATTERY expressed her appreciation to the Topeka Police Department for the positive interactions in the community. She spoke in opposition of approving an "8 Can't

Wait” resolution and noted the Topeka Police Department already has policies in place to cover these guidelines.

Shelane Frederick spoke to the chaos happening throughout the nation and cautioned the Governing Body against stripping the Police Department of the ability to do their job as the result of personal agendas. She stated not allowing the police to do their jobs will have an overall effect on public safety in the community.

Sawab (S.J.) Hazim expressed concern with the actions of individuals on both sides of the movements for “Back the Blue” and “Black Lives Matter.” He asked individuals on both sides of the issues to do their due diligence before supporting a cause. He commented on the efforts that are working in the community to close racial gaps.

Melvin Adams stated he believes we are here due to lies being told by the media. He provided statistics of murders of all races across the nation. He also provided an overview of government budgets across the nation in regards to the funding of police departments.

Ivy LaGrone spoke in opposition of removing qualified immunity for police officers. She questioned how the individuals serving on the citizen review board would be selected and spoke in opposition of duplication in services with the Independent Police Auditor position. She stated many things are being proposed under the appearance there was a problem in the Topeka Police Department.

Cain Davis spoke in opposition of creating a citizen review board. He asked the Governing Body to look at community issues and create programs accordingly. He referenced a number of citizens, groups, and organizations already engaging with the Topeka Police Department. He stated the Independent Police Auditor remains completely independent from the Topeka Police Department.

Pastor Greg Bland expressed his appreciation to Governing Body members and Police Chief Cochran. He spoke to the importance of being proactive instead of reactive in regards to policing in the community as it relates to positive relationships. He stated we all need to move forward together through volunteerism and personal resources to make a better climate for us all to live in and the change starts with us.

Damon Walker stated he believes qualified immunity allows officers to violate an individual’s civil rights. He expressed the need for police officers to be held to a higher standard and if officers are held accountable for their actions then those being violated of their civil rights and or harmed will decrease.

JoAnna Marks spoke to the purpose of the citizen review board and need for open transparent accountability while encouraging dialog between all involved. She explained how the citizen review board would be helpful to police officers.

PJay Carter expressed the importance of education and communication within the community. He stated he believes the agenda as presented serves no purpose to the community

because all people are asking for was to feel safe in the community. He stated they are asking for preventative steps to be taken.

Regina Platt stated we need to look at what we are doing as a community. She stated the citizen review board gives voice to the change in the community and there remains a need for restorative justice in order to hold citizens accountable. She stated it would cost less to operate as a restorative community rather than a punitive community and the process would build relationships and unite Topeka.

Anita Austin stated the community needs to be able to trust the police. She stated she was sad and disappointed the meeting has been viewed as an attack on police and noted the community continues to ask the City to form good relationships with all involved.

Courtland Davis stated he believes the creation of a citizen review board was vital. He stated the City needs to build understanding through the board so they can start to build trust. He spoke to the elements that need to be addressed regarding interaction between police officers and people of color.

Glenda Overstreet provided suggestions regarding police reform including the creation of the citizen review board. She referenced the proposed draft ordinance regarding the Topeka Citizen Review Board from the Topeka Center for Peace & Justice sent to the Governing Body.

Stephen Twemlow expressed concern with the need for more physical, technical and deescalating tactic training by police officers. He stated the officers need a minimum of 20 hours of training in each of these areas. He spoke in opposition of defunding the Police Department.

Joshua Karimi stated as a black citizen there continues to be a problem with targeted violence by the Police Department. He spoke to the need of neighborhood beautification projects to replace blight and vacant properties for the purpose of reducing crime and acknowledged the need for police reform in all areas of the city.

Danielle Twemlow spoke in support of system changes that better serve our community and reduces gun violence. She listed a number of actions that need to be taken to confront racism in our community and the nation reducing shootings by police and improving the trust of the community. She stated that research shows improving the use of force policies can save lives.

Carol Christensen provided recommendations to improve police reform including focus on policy reform and training to build transparency and accountability in police practices while improving police and community relations.

Bill Smallback provided crime statistics of Topeka compared to the nation. He spoke to police department reform related to police brutality and noted crime statistics have continued to rise over the past two years. He stated a majority of the “8 Can’t Wait” policies have already been implemented by the Topeka Police Department.

Cammie Landholm stated she believes Governing Body members need to spend time with the rank and file members of the Police Department to understand the incidents that they face. She asked them to research all the proposals being brought forward by outside organizations to ensure these are the right fit for the Police Department.

Shelby Fehrenbacher stated she supports the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP); however, she believes qualified immunity gives officers the ability to kill without consequences even when civil rights are clearly violated. She spoke in opposition of the Independent Police Auditor and asked for transparency and the need to end qualified immunity.

Ariane Davis referenced numerous incidents of police brutality ending in death. She stated the Governing Body must take action to address racism in Topeka and bridge the gap between the community and police. She stated the changes they are lobbying for are not unreasonable.

Wendy Branson expressed concern with the direction the nation was taking and the issues occurring in Topeka. She expressed the importance of the community working together and taking care of our police officers and making police reform decisions based on logic not radical emotions.

Nicole Purce spoke in opposition of qualified immunity and would like radical change and reform, fairness and equality in the community.

Michael Bell spoke in support of adopting proactive police reform policies. He stated there was a need to continue discussions with all community members to have successful reform that allows the Police Department to protect and serve all members of the community.

Hannah Hansen spoke to the necessity of police accountability and reform and follow up with real actions that prevent the killing of black citizens. She stated Topeka was no different than other cities across the nations that need real sustainable change in police reform.

Spencer Crawl stated there was a need for an independent body for oversight for transparent views that hold police accountable. He stated there was a need to provide citizens with empowerment, a need to modernize infrastructure, and companies to pay more than minimum wage. He stated there should be a neutral third party to handle police incidents such as a citizen review board. He stated more creative training solutions are needed rather than just badges and guns.

Oshara Hayes referenced the “Common Ground” wall mural painted on the Law Enforcement Center. She asked the Governing Body to think about all the citizens and what common ground looks like to them and need for more community programs to empower and educate our children. She asked the Governing Body to consider what common ground looks like in reference to qualified immunity for police officers.

Erica Garcia Babb stated police reform does not mean the defunding of police. She referenced many incidents throughout the nation related to police brutality. She asked the Governing Body members to listen to all voices so they can be heard.

Jake Mertz referenced the Topeka Human Relation Commission (THRC) police reform recommendations and stated the only recommendation he agrees with was the ban on choke holds. He stated police officers need to use all tactics available to stay safe and items need to be discussed from both sides of the issues before implementation.

Tranise Marshall spoke in support of police reform. She referenced incidents of police brutality ending in the death of black people. She suggested increased training for de-escalating situations.

Shampayne Lloyd expressed the importance to have real conversations about police reform practices that are negatively affecting certain race groups. She stated good leadership in government includes considering all social aspects no matter what others opinions might be. She stated division will divide as far as we allow.

Hannah Schumacher stated she continues to listen and engage those of variety of backgrounds and races and the City needs to work towards long-term meaningful change; evaluate police use of force and qualified immunity; create a citizen review board; and increase transparency and accountability with the goal of public safety. She encouraged the City to work towards the goal of safer neighborhoods and increase trust in the police and decrease shootings by Topeka police officers.

Chris Bush provided an example of an incident of police officers that were protected under qualified immunity while violating a person's Fourth Amendment rights. He asked the Governing Body to think about how it would make them feel.

Davis Hammet asked the Governing Body to hold police officers accountable and implement reform policies that support public safety.

Jessica Moore stated the bare minimum of change should no longer be the option and there continues to be a need to address systemic racism as well as mental health issues in the community.

Kristen Littleton expressed the importance of trauma training. She stated children in poverty have adverse childhood experiences and do not have the ability to know how to react in certain situations. She stated there was a need to reallocate funding to address this type of trauma training.

Bill Welch referenced violent behavior of the Black Lives Matter organization across the nation. He spoke in support of fully funding the Police Department and safety on the streets. He stated the most effective way to reduce crime across the nation was to reduce poverty.

Pastor Carl Frazier stated the Governing Body should look at recruiting more diverse employees within the Police Department. He encouraged the community to look at items that need to be improved and take advantage of these opportunities.

Matt Blassingame provided statistics of police officer deaths in Topeka and across the nation. He spoke in support of all additional training opportunities including de-escalation training. He stated police officers have a duty to serve and protect, and many times use of force was necessary and may not be a choice of the officer. He stated the Topeka Police Department was more advanced in police policies than most departments across the nation.

John Culver stated he echoes the comments of Matt Blassingame. He stated the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) looks forward to working with the Governing Body and the community in a positive manner.

Glenda DuBoise asked the Governing Body to consider the recommendations that have been made by the Topeka Center for Peace & Justice in regards to police reform in the Topeka community which would improve relationships in the city.

Robert Lenth spoke to the previously proposed recommendations that put the lives of police officers in danger including the ban on choke holds; a warning before shooting; and never shooting a person running away. He expressed the importance of including police officers in the conversations regarding recommendations for reform.

Tiffani Jones provided a brief overview of personal experiences she had throughout her life related to bias and racism when dealing with police officers. She asked for more training for the police officers relating to bias and racism as well as addressing the need for diversity within the police force and noted real change comes in numbers.

Thomas Muther spoke in support of making the police force better and suggested revisiting the many studies that have been conducted across the nation for solutions to police reform.

Robert Troupe Jr. referenced shooting incidents in his neighborhood that have slow or no response from the Police Department. He commented on various negative interactions he had with the police officers as a youth and expressed the importance of more training for police officers.

Robert Redler stated in reviewing the Topeka Human Relations Commission (THRC) police reform recommendations he believes that safety has to come before cooperation. He mentioned abuse of power by a police officer and if it was based on discrimination. He suggested if the proposed changes do not eliminate discriminations then they should not be used.

The following individuals submitted public comment via electronic mail: Diane Reynolds, Pam Arnoldy, Mariyln Ellenz, Richard Koerth, Martinez Hillard, anonymous

comments received by Monique Glaude, Hannah Schumacher, Francis Slobodnik, Lauren Christ, Rod Bleich, Echo Van Meteren, Tom and Kaye Stewart, Michael Garrison, Nancy Gargan, Rene Armbruster, Ricky Kennedy, Ann Mah, Dr. Glenda Overstreet, Glenda DuBoise, Teresa Miller, Marie Carter, Franklin Williams, Sara Keckeisen, Cindy Branson, Addie Juedes, Lauren Kaine, Gale Wollenberg, Dawn Buttery, and Shelby Fehrenbacher.

*(Attachment A)*

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

(SEAL)

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Brenda Younger  
City Clerk



# Attachment A

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Brenda Younger  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 12:29 PM  
**To:** Governing Body  
**Cc:** Department Directors; City Clerk  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS FW: Aug 25 Special Session

Governing Body Members,

I am forwarding comments from Ms. Reynolds regarding the August 25, 2020, Special Meeting.

Thank you.

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**From:** Brenda Younger  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Diane Reynolds  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** RE: Aug 25 Special Session

Ms. Reynolds,

I have received your comments and will forward to the Governing Body.

Thank you.

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**From:** Diane Reynolds [<mailto:rhstables@sbcglobal.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 12:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Aug 25 Special Session

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I respectfully request that the Special Session be moved to TPAC to allow a larger venue to accommodate the public.

Additionally, much more time needs to be allotted for the session, since the issues to be discussed impacts our entire community. If the end goal is to benefit our officers and the community, everyone should be heard - and this session and all sessions should be widely publicized.

Many concerned citizens are against the #8Can'tWait, the ban on no-knock warrants, and the other proposals that are being brought before the City Council from Campaign Zero and the 501c3 organization "We The Protesters". Please keep in mind that the number of people from the rest of the community that stand behind the safety and morale of our officers far outweigh the number of people in these special interest groups.

It is imperative that our great police men and women feel appreciated and want to stay working in Topeka. It is also imperative that they keep the tools and funding needed to safely keep our city free from crime, and enforce the laws written by the legislators,

and supported by case law.

While I was pleased to recently learn that there is an SPCP Council, in the interest of ALL parties concerned, it is extremely important that there be mandatory oversight and a screening process, maybe even background checks, to ensure the credibility and integrity of every member. This would certainly put the concerned citizens at ease.

Do the SPCP Council members go through the Citizens Academy? How much time have they spent shadowing a police officer such as ride-alongs? I strongly believe this experience with the officers should be made mandatory so they can make informed decisions.

I also strongly believe there should be set rules for disciplining and/or removal from the council.

I look forward to the peaceful Rally outside of City Hall that day to show appreciation and celebrate our wonderful Topeka Police Department. We are so blessed to have them. I am hoping that the special interest groups will engage with meaningful conversation at the rally and that it stays a safe rally. It is important we all work together and am praying it is not ruined by potential disrespectful and radical people encroaching on the law abiding citizens. I am hoping Topeka is better than that.

Very Respectfully,  
Diane Reynolds  
66606

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Elizabeth Toyne  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 2:57 PM  
**To:** Pam Arnoldy; City Council; City Clerk  
**Subject:** RE: TOPEKA KANSAS BACK THE BLUE

Good Afternoon Ms. Arnoldy,

Thank you for contacting the Topeka City Council. This message serves as confirmation that your email has been received by the Council members.

Respectfully,

Liz Toyne  
Executive Assistant to the City Council  
City of Topeka  
215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> St, Room 256  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-368-3710



**From:** Pam Arnoldy [<mailto:parnoldy@cox.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** City Council <[Council@Topeka.org](mailto:Council@Topeka.org)>; City Clerk <[cclerk@Topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@Topeka.org)>  
**Subject:** TOPEKA KANSAS BACK THE BLUE

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We want a strong Police Department to enforce laws, prevent crime and keep us safe. We expect our local government to hire, train and equip our officers to keep them safe. We do NOT want our police department defunded.

**PamArnoldy**

*Sent from iPad*

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Marilyn Ellenz <mellenz@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 12:45 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Clerk  
**Subject:** Police Reform

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I heard this morning that there is a council meeting planned for August 25th regarding Eight Can't Wait in connection with reforming our Police Department. I have seen what has happened in the democratic cities who have defunded their police, and I don't think any of us want to see that occur here. For Topeka, I understand this would incorporate more deescalation maneuvers, but I am concerned that the lives of our officers will be in jeopardy. For example, chokeholds can be dangerous when done incorrectly, but with proper training, this maneuver would save lives. Never be ashamed of law and order. The police need a strong presence, and we do not want to create a war on cops from one incident. They are the people that have to answer the calls no one else could stomach. They need all the support that we can provide to ensure that we have safe neighborhoods and a strong police presence in our city.

Thank you for taking your time on this critical issue for Topeka.

Back the Blue!

Marilyn Ellenz  
Topeka, KS

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Richard Koerth <dickanddeb@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Neutering Our Law Enforcement

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This message is for the Mayor and every city council person. Your proposal to decrease funding for our city police is a dangerous step towards destabilizing our community! Getting rid of choke holds is ridiculous, that is something that is non-lethal that could save both the officer and the criminal.

8 Can't Wait is definitely something that is unacceptable! We will not stand for this left-winged radical agenda you have in mind for Topeka!!! We will start petitions to recall you and ruin your political careers!

See you on the 25th!

Richard & Deborah Koerth

Re: Submission of Public Comment for Special Meeting  
08/25/20

Over the past few years, on a repeated basis, I've read and seen various members of Council as well as Topeka Police Department Chief Cochran refer to anyone speaking out against current practices at TPD as 'so-called leaders,' 'a minority within our community,' and other related terms. With that said, I'd like to state that I submit this public comment on behalf of myself exclusively.

The scepter of police violence, its consequences, and its place in our nation's dialogue is not a new phenomenon. If anything, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has only further exposed how inequity exists for many Americans, our failure in developing policies that close these gaps, and our misuse of policing to address these shortcomings.

In addition, there is no law enforcement agency on this American soil that I know of that is exempt from these shortcomings. To suggest that Topekans who have chosen to speak up against police violence are only doing so under the guise of a nationwide call to action is unfair and wrong. It is a betrayal of those of us you've asked to participate civilly in the processes you've put forth, who've stood within your rules of engagement, and have been patient as you find the courage to acknowledge what is and has been happening between law enforcement and the citizens of this community. It's a betrayal to our community's youth, who have bravely assembled for protest on multiple occasions in the wake of George Floyd's murder, who you stood among and told that their voices were being heard. It's a betrayal to the constant and strategic reference to Linda Brown's legacy in our community, the outcry for equal education opportunities that rang out - indeed - nationwide, and the violent upheaval of an unjust system from 1954 to this very day.

All the while, I've been asking myself where I can find a similar rebuttal for all the citizens who disagree with us, who don't believe that our experiences are true. Where is your public retort to them that we absolutely have issues to face within our law enforcement agency? Where is your reminder to them that you sat with us in the presence of dozens of citizens in late 2017 and early 2018 at our local library, listening to them describe their traumatic experiences with local police? Why did City Manager Trout see it fit to invite the Department of Justice into our community the following summer to facilitate programming for police officers and citizens from all backgrounds to come together? Why the formation of the SPCP Council and the creation of the Independent Police Auditor position? Why the visit to The National Memorial for Peace and Justice during your trip to Montgomery, Alabama last year? Why the newly released list of policing recommendations from our Human Relations Commission? What am I missing here?

I recall reading a comment from a fellow citizen in a recent newspaper article regarding his participation in a local protest for George Floyd, how Topeka needed to be proactive in its stance for Black lives before "we have a George Floyd here." My heart sank, my eyes welled with tears, and my first thought was that Dominique was not even three years buried.

You're absolutely right. I am no leader. I am only one voice. My voice is wearing thin.

Martinez Hillard

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Monique Glaude  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:24 PM  
**To:** Brenda Younger  
**Subject:** August 25th Governing Body Meeting Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Greetings Brenda,

I received the following anonymous call this mornign and the caller would like their comments to be shared with the Governing Body:

*" I want to be assured that the Topeka Police Department is not defunded or destabilized. It is my preference that more funding be provided to the department in the future.  
I am concerned that the Leftist group that will be in attendance at the meeting will attempt to defund the department."*

Thanks

To Greater Success,  
Monique Y. Glaude'  
Division Director of Community Engagement  
City of Topeka  
Department of Neighborhood Relations  
620 SE Madison, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Topeka, KS 66607  
785-368-4470  
[www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org)

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## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Hannah Schumacher <herschumacher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Special Session

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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As a white Topekan with more privileges than I deserve, my interactions with law enforcement have been few and far between compared to many of my fellow Topekans. My interactions have always been mutually respectful and calm. They haven't always been timely and have often taken more effort than they should on my part to initiate. I have heard from other Topekans they've had quite opposite experiences. I believe them and you should too.

Please also remember groups and individuals are working together in our city towards long term meaningful change that will positively impact many groups within our community including our law enforcement. This includes the list of desired outcomes I'm sure you're already aware of:

1. Evaluate the use of force policy and procedures
2. Create high standards of transparency and accountability by looking at qualified immunity
3. Create an independent citizen review board
4. increase and enhance reporting to the public

These proposed changes will require ongoing work to help ensure justice and equity for all Topekans. I sincerely hope as an elected official representing Topekans who are and aren't like you, you will take multiple differing perspectives into account and work towards change that will foster essential community partnerships and relationships.

Thank you,  
Hannah Schumacher

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Francis Slobodnik <fjslo@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 5:07 PM  
**To:** Brenda Younger  
**Subject:** Written Comment for Tuesday's Meeting

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding 3 B. etc.

There has been tremendous confusion about the agenda for this special meeting. I hear that it is an 8 Can't Wait agenda and then that it is not.

In these times of tremendous volatility in some parts of America I believe what we need in Topeka is stability. I have found the Topeka Police Department to be very professional. They truly both serve and protect the public. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

How the police department is run is up to the Chief of Police who answers to his superiors. Anyone at any time can register a complaint with the Chief of Police etc.

The agenda items follow at least some of the 8 can't wait agenda items whether deliberate or not. One of the items on the 8 Can't Wait website is, "comprehensive community safety." Under that category is, "divest from police." Sounds kind of like Minneapolis, New York, Seattle or Portland. Is that what we really want for Topeka?

Without the police, personal safety and private property would be worth very little. The police keep us safe day and night. While we sleep comfortably in our beds the police protect us.

If a questionable action takes place there is already a review process. The police should be allowed to continue using time tested procedures to keep the public safe. These procedures also keep the officer and even the suspect safe. The Chief can and I am sure does review procedures frequently. Let's let him do his job.

Police work is not one size fits all. All sorts of variables can come out of nowhere that change the circumstances of a police action. The police officer in a life or death situation doesn't have the time to pull out an extensive rule book to make sure he can take appropriate action. Officers are trained to know what is appropriate action and what is not.

I am sure there are in Topeka, some individuals who would like to eliminate the police or hobble them so much as to be ineffective. If you don't believe me just look into the forbidden items at the local Good Year plant. One of the forbidden items is, "blue lives matter."

As the great St. Augustine said centuries ago, "order is the first law of heaven." The police officer maintains law and order. Law and order help our society to run smoothly. We can go to work, go shopping, go to the park and enjoy freedom and tranquility in our own homes.

Topeka is not New York, Seattle, Minneapolis or Portland. Individuals who might desire the elimination of the police know that what flies in those cities will not fly overnight in Topeka. They have to use the salami principle; one slice at a time. Topekans, be vigilant and avoid getting caught up in the frenzy of self-destructive anarchy.

Francis Slobodnik  
Topeka, KS

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Lauren Christ <laurenelizabethchrist@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Upcoming city council special session

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am Lauren Christ, a lifelong resident of Topeka. I am in a high tax bracket and raising my two children here. I am highly invested in police reform in our city and will be attending the council meeting Tuesday.

I am writing to you to say that I am in full support of Black Lives Matter Topeka Kansas demands which are the following:

- We demand provisions to overhaul qualified immunity for law enforcement and this be placed into the actual FOP contract
- We demand prohibitions on racial profiling
- We demand a ban on chokeholds and classifying it as a criminal offense?
- We Demand establishing of registry of police misconduct maintained by the Department of Justice.
- We demand a Civilian Review Board with the Goal to represent and empower the community via promotion of citizen retaliation, prevention of future abuse, and policing the police departments use of force

When the benefits are so great and there is no harm done this community by granting these things, it just makes sense for you all as a governing body to be in agreement with every single one of these demands.

By this you are acknowledging the life and the lives of all those killed by police brutality and pledging NEVER again and NOT in this city. And to do anything less is a sign of open willingness to stand on the wrong side of history.

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Thank you for your time,  
Cassy Ainsworth, LSCSW

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## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Rod Bleich <bleichrod@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 12:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** NO DEFUNDING AND NO RESTRICTIONS ON POLICE

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rod Bleich here.

I live at 3409 sw 37th street in Topeka. My wife, Barb and I moved to Topeka in 1995. We have raised 3 sons, that attended Topeka West.

I am totally against defunding the police. Also, I am totally against putting any restrictions on the police.

I hear about all the crime and violence that is happening in Topeka, in Kansas, and around our country. I think it is totally crazy to do anything negative the police.

It seems, a very well planned organization is trying to do great damage to our country. We need the police to step up more to enforce our laws, put rioters in jail, etc. The Black Lives Matter Movement is actually destroying our country. I am sick to see the local and national news and observe how our country is being destroyed.

You will probably have an organized group attend your public hearing, that want to defund and put restrictions on police. Please know that countless numbers of people, just want peace, law and order.

So who will be liable, if I need the police to come and protect me, my family and property, and the police does not show? I pay taxes and I truly need and want the absolute best police protection possible.

If you want to visit with me, please call, 785 817 2363.

Thank you!  
Rod Bleich

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Elizabeth Toyne  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 2:24 PM  
**To:** Echo Van Meteren; City Council; jerry.farley@washburn.edu; ChiefsOffice  
**Cc:** Mayor; City Clerk  
**Subject:** RE: City Council Special Session - TPD Budget

Good Afternoon Ms. Van Meteren,

Thank you for contacting the Topeka City Council. This message serves as confirmation that your email has been received by the Council members.

I am including Mayor De La Isla's office as well as the City Clerk's office in this response so that your comments may be added to the record of public comments.

In response to a few of the concerns listed in your email, the Governing Body approved a proposal to provide an additional \$20,000 to the Topeka Police Department's Behavioral Health Unit. This unit works with the homeless population as well as individuals experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis. This proposal was passed, along with the rest of the 2021 City Budget, at the August 11, 2020 meeting. To see the minutes from that meeting, please click [here](#).

A press conference was held on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, by Mayor De La Isla and City Manager Brent Trout to answer concerns regarding the Special Meeting on August 25. During this press conference, support for the Topeka Police Department was expressed. You can view the press conference [here](#).

I have also attached the agenda for the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, [here](#).

Respectfully,

Liz Toyne  
Executive Assistant to the City Council  
City of Topeka  
215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> St, Room 256  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-368-3710



---

**From:** Echo Van Meteren [<mailto:fairecho@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 9:58 AM

To: City Council <[Council@Topeka.org](mailto:Council@Topeka.org)>; [jerry.farley@washburn.edu](mailto:jerry.farley@washburn.edu); ChiefsOffice <[chiefsoffice@topeka.org](mailto:chiefsoffice@topeka.org)>  
Subject: City Council Special Session - TPD Budget

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 21,2020

Mayor De Isla  
Topeka City Council  
Jerry Farley, Washburn University President  
Bill Cochran, Chief, TPD

Please read into the record for the special session called for on 8/26/20.

To all concerned,

Mayor De Isla's call for a special session of the City Council with the police department's budget being on the agenda is nothing more than political posturing for the national Democratic Party and is not prompted primarily out of concern about the safety and well-being of the citizens of Topeka or for anyone else that has business in Topeka.

As a parent of a Washburn University student, I could not be more disgusted with the mayor's political posturing. Thousands of students, citizens, and businesses expect a level of protection from the mayor's office. When one sends her child off to college, there is an underlying sense of concern, combined with the hopefulness that they will be safe. You trust that the city, the university, and the community are working together to ensure that students have a wholesome, safe academic learning environment and social environment.

I thank GOD every day that my child is alive. I also say a prayer every day for the families that have lost a child to a senseless act of violence in the middle of a Topeka street. My daughter bears the emotional scars of losing her best friend, a Washburn football player, to such a senseless act of violence. She will have to deal with those scars every day for the rest of her life. Unfortunately, there are too many families in Topeka who are grieving due to violent criminal behavior.

It is a slap in the face to those who have suffered in this violent community even to consider reducing or redirecting law enforcement's budget. In fact, you should be bolstering the public safety budget, increasing training, and increasing community awareness. You should be demonstrating to Topeka residents that you have a zero-tolerance for violent crime, and any criminal activity will be treated with the strictest enforcement of the law. You should support your law enforcement officers for the incredible work they perform every day and the sacrifices that their families endure.

Topeka has the highest crime rate in the State of Kansas. That is something about which city leaders should hang their heads. It is time to address this with the appropriate measures. When your citizens are suffering from violent crime, it should not be treated with party politics.

Respectfully,

Echo Van Meteren

Mom of a Washburn University Student

--

**Echo Van Meteren**

## Kelly L. Bogner

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**From:** kayeandtom <kayeandtom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Topeka Police Department

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My husband and I have been lifelong residents of Topeka. We can't even begin to imagine what our police go through each day only to go back and do it again the next day. Their stress levels are so high and then for people to put them all in one group and label them "bad cops" is incomprehensible.

My husband and I support the TPD. As in ANY workplace, there needs to be more training but having them contact their supervisors before engaging their weapons is absolutely ludicrous!

City council, let's work together to keep Topeka safe for ALL of our families.

We stand with the BLUE!

Tom & Kaye Stewart

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy Phone.



## Kelly L. Bogner

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**From:** mike@mrbuick.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** defunding the police

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a citizen of Topeka area , business owner, I am sending this into you to be on record. If you want the police defunded move to another region of the country. This area needs more policing rather than less. The liberal left and the media has emboldened criminals to do more crime. Every time they are arrested they want to fight the cops. If an officer has to wait for permission to protect himself or run to t trunk for his weapon that has to be the worst idea ever since the Vietnam war. (if you don't remember that's why we lost it) Stop being a coward and folding to BLM and the ANTIFA idiots. The rule of law is at stake here. BY your actions the crime rate will explode in Topeka (as if it hasn't already). Its time the silent majority told you what is proper, You are violating an officers right to his own self protection and the Topeka civilians they protect. I predict your removal if you continue these kind of policies in our county. I for one will back your opponent and help them get you ousted. FUND our POLICE not defund. Stop the political correctness.

MICHAEL GARRISON  
HIGH TORQUE RACING  
785-484-3245

**Kelly L. Bogner**

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**From:** Nancy Gargan <ngarganwine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; City Council  
**Subject:** Aug 25th Meeting 8 can't wait

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,  
First I want to thank all of you for what you are doing.

Second, I would like to let you know that I do not support changes to the Topeka Police Department that diminishes what they do. I believe they have been doing a good job. If anything they need more money and more officers to be able to give more attention to things like the neighborhood car vandalization that we have had sporadically at night.

Please VOTE NO on 8 can't wait.

I would hope that you have looked it up on the internet <https://8cantwait.org/> and realize that it is "A Project of Campaign Zero".

Then if you click on or research Campaign Zero, <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/> you will find that they also support actions like "nix the 6" to eliminate police unions and more <https://nixthe6.org/>

If we start to support these radical national agendas now with the small stuff it will not be long and they will be wanting you to vote for more of their policies to defund and demolish the Police Dept.  
Hopefully you have already looked at these websites and this organization, having done your own homework.

I realize on the news they said this is not a major thing, but it is step 1 of the agenda that will continue to be pushed to defund the police in the future.

## CAMPAIGN ZERO



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[Podcast](#)

A project by **Campaign Zero** [VOLUNTEER](#) [DONATE](#)

# #NIXTHE6

POLICE UNIONS HAVE TOO MUCH POWER.  
IT'S TIME TO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE.

- 1**  
NO MORE  
Police Union Contracts  
Blocking Accountability
- 2**  
NO MORE  
Rehiring Officers Fired  
for Misconduct
- 3**  
NO MORE  
Police Bill of  
Rights Laws
- 4**  
NO MORE  
Police Union Influence  
Over Police Budgets
- 5**  
NO MORE  
Police Unions Buying  
Political Power
- 6**  
NO MORE  
Negotiations without  
Community  
Representation

# #8CANTWAIT

BAN CHOKEHOLDS & STRANGLEHOLDS	REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION	REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING	EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

TOGETHER, THESE 8 POLICIES CAN  
DECREASE POLICE VIOLENCE BY **72%**.

DUTY TO INTERVENE	BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES	ESTABLISH USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM	REQUIRE ALL FORCE BE REPORTED

VISIT [8CANTWAIT.ORG](http://8CANTWAIT.ORG) TO FIND YOUR CITY,  
CALL YOUR MAYOR, AND DEMAND CHANGE RIGHT NOW.

CAMPAIGN ZERO

Please VOTE NO,  
I want to save our police department in Topeka, KS.  
Thank you for your time and assistance.

Nancy Gargan  
Topeka, KS 66614

"Live life to the fullest, never having wished you had done something else; live a life that inspires others"

## Kelly L. Bogner

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**From:** renealphlearn@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 3:07 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Aug 25 meeting

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City Council Members and Mayor De La Isla:

I am writing to respectfully ask you 2 things about the special meeting on August 25.

The first would be PLEASE have this meeting at the EXPO center so that anyone that wishes to attend this meeting may do so so that their voice can be heard. Meeting in a location where only a few can attend is not fair to those citizens that are concerned about city policies that will affect me and my family that live inside the Topeka city limits and my family that travels from out of city or state to see me. Although I live in the county and am not able to vote in the city elections, my husband works in Topeka and until his semi retirement he owned a business inside the Topeka city limits. He still works part time at that Topeka business. We also still own rental property in Topeka.

The policies you are about to make to defund the police or reallocation as I hear you are calling it, will change what Topeka looks like forever! If you listen and watch the national news, you know what chaos WILL ensue if POLICE are not able to do their job of law enforcement. Defunding the police or reallocating the funds intended for the operation of the police force will ONLY ATTRACT new criminals to the area. When the police are required by policy or instructed by the city government to step back and take a back seat approach to crime (looting, burning, mayhem, etc) NOTHING but businesses and lives are destroyed.

The Corona virus has already taken ENOUGH of our livelihood. Do not allow this new radical agenda to sweep through Topeka!!! I don't even think a task force should be assigned to this effort. First of all, those that are calling for this special session are members of BLM. YES, black lives matter as ALL LIVES matter. HOWEVER, BLM's agenda is a Marxist agenda. (If you haven't looked at their website lately, I would suggest you do so.) I have even seen a video where the founder of BLM was Marxist trained and she admits it. I won't even educate you on what Marxism is because you are all intelligent enough to research that yourself.

Many businesses in cities where the protestors, rioting, looting (stealing) and mayhem has allowed to go unchecked are leaving those cities and maybe even the state. TOPEKA CANNOT afford to lose any more tax base by driving businesses from our city.

The Topeka Police and Shawnee County Sheriff's office has done an excellent job of community service at the schools, Boys and Girls Club and through other organizations where they deem they can reach children and young adults. From what I have been told, Topeka is the most violent city in Kansas. Can we afford to defund the police or even give that job over to the "peacemakers" which would be the social workers? Those who commit violence don't care about peacemakers. I fear the social workers that would be called out would be in much danger and they wouldn't know how to subdue a violent person, male or female! Topeka even has the distinction of ranking the 32nd most dangerous city in the NATION. Can we really afford to defund the police or reallocate the money TAX PAYERS are levied to pay so that we can be ranked # 10 as the most violent city in the Nation?

Again, I say PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A DECISION BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTION. This is not a quick decision that should be made without ANY TOPEKAN weighing in on the issue that wants to.

I don't need to remind you that ALL of you are elected officials. You were elected by the people of your district. Not to do what YOU WANT, but to follow the will of the people in your district. That will should be the majority not the lesser.

I also want to remind you that if you DEFUND the police, than those who own property inside the city limits SHOULD get a

rebate on their property taxes because we will no longer have the security and assurance of protection from the police that we had when we bought the property.

Thank you for reading this.

Rene Armbruster

PS: I wrote the above letter over a week ago. I was told that for this to be in public record I needed to send it to the county clerk. I only got a response from 3 of the council members. Since then, I saw a news conference with the Mayor who said that she has changed the name of 8 Can't Wait to a more "non-divisive" name and is now calling this action Best Practices. It doesn't matter what name you give it, what is on the agenda is still the same as the 8 Can't Wait campaign that is going around the country. I am thrilled to hear that many of the practices of 8 Can't Wait is already being followed by the Topeka Police Department. There are a few items that still concern me. I will not sign up to speak as I know that there are others that will speaking concerning the same thing. I will ask that person to make it known that I also am asking this question as he addresses the council.

I realize that all of you are elected officials and also have other jobs you attend to. You are very busy people and I appreciate that. Perhaps I did not hear a response from most of you because I live outside of Topeka (but pay property taxes as well as taxes whenever I spend money within the city limits). I know you are getting hundreds of calls and emails regarding this meeting on both sides of the issues. So if I don't get a response from you, I will assume that you are far too busy.

The mayor did mention that she will not listen to those who come from outside our city to make the decisions she makes. It is my understanding (perhaps a rumor that she was talking about) that one of the women who asked for the meeting was from the Kansas City area. Perhaps I was misinformed.

I will be at the rally to Back the Blue. I hope to get into the council meeting. I think it a travesty that you will not hold this elsewhere so that more than 30 people can attend. That is why I am asking that anyone who wants to make a presentation be allowed **EVEN IF IT WOULD TAKE** several special meetings!

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Ricky Kennedy <rickydkennedy@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Meeting 8/25/20

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City council please listen. I am sure the changes you want to implement for the Topeka police dept did not come from the people of Topeka or from you as a city council but from BLM they look like some of the same nonsense that has been offered around the country. BLM is not a civil rights movement! Their leaders have openly and proudly proclaimed that they are Marxist (if you don't know what that is look it up) and they are racist that their goal is the destruction of American and their desire is the death of all white people. These are the people you are supposed to be protecting the citizens from and yet our mayor proudly supports them. She is supposed to serve all Topekan's but has decided that only black lives matter. She wants to go to Washington DC but not apparently to serve all kansan's but only the ones she thinks matters. I am not black, but my life matters. She has openly stated that she has already started defunding the police, why, because only certain lives matter. Can none of you look further ahead then today? Can you not see that what you are doing is making people take the law into their own hands because the police will be incapable of helping. Do not believe what you have been told, BLM is not as popular as you think. That will show up this November at the polls for the mayor because she doesn't represent all kansan's she doesn't respect all life just the far far left.

I want you the city council to stand up for all the people of Topeka and vote against these destructive changes that threaten the lives all Topekan's. Be strong, don't be bullied, people are counting on you to do what is right. I challenge all of you to state for the record on Tuesday that ALL lives matter (and that includes black lives) lives are at stake don't let us down and don't be afraid.

Stand up and openly support the citizens and our police

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

## Kelly L. Bogner

---

**From:** Ann Mah <annmah@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:09 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Cc:** topekacpj@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Police reform

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Mayor and Topeka City Council Members:

I am writing today in support of long-term police and justice reform in our community. As a white woman I have never had to have “that talk” with my son. You know. The one where you explain how careful he should be if he is stopped by the police. Even though my son was stopped by the police more than once, I never worried that he would not come out of that encounter okay. I cannot say the same for my friends of color who are parents. I cannot even begin to understand that fear. I can empathize, but that is not enough. I must act to make change.

As a member of the state board of education, my interest is in ensuring that our students of color have the chance to grow up, graduate, and stay out of prison. For my part, I am working on racial injustice in our public schools. But we need more than that. We need you to address better policing. Some topics that have been suggested to be discussed include the use of force, de-escalation tactics, more effective use of personnel, and other strategies that improve policing in our community. A citizens’ review board is something that is working well in other communities and could work here as well.

One thing that has bothered me is how the discussion about this whole topic has turned toxic recently. There is not a binary choice between supporting our police officers and police reform. We can choose both. Our men and women in blue run toward danger every day and I appreciate their service. But we can always improve. Now is the time to address how we make that happen.

I thank you for your service and appreciate that you are taking time to listen. I know you have a difficult job, but I trust that you will make changes for the better for our community.

Sincerely,

Ann Mah

3351 SE Meadowview Dr.

Topeka, KS 66605

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Dr. Glenda Overstreet <doctorglendao@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:11 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pro Police Reform  
**Attachments:** Police Reformatations for Topeka 2020.docx

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please add to the records per Councilman Duncan although I think that this letter will also be part of a packet to be sent by Mainstream today. In case it is not included, you will have this info.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Dr. Glenda Overstreet <[doctorglendao@gmail.com](mailto:doctorglendao@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 4:02 PM  
**Subject:** Pro Police Reform  
**To:** <[council@topeka.org](mailto:council@topeka.org)>

Please see the attached from a supporter of police reform.



### My Personal Experience with Policing in Topeka, Ks

When I was about 6 or 7 years old, and residing in the North Topeka area of town, I was standing by a stop sign. I was waiting to cross the street near my home by the Topeka boulevard bridge. A police car approached my way and so I stopped to let the officers pass. Once stopped by the stop sign, one of the two officers directed my attention to a bent stop sign. The nearest officer asked me if I had damaged the stop sign, for which I replied: "Sir, I am not tall enough to reach the sign." The Officers began to laugh at me, although I did not enjoy the joke, and then they said "we are going to keep our eyes on you" This event stayed with me for some time through my early formative years, and I do vividly recall the circumstances of this event. The feelings that I was left with is that some officer might come back and arrest me for something that I could not have possibly done, but that my innocence alone would not necessarily save me.

While my adolescent life did not come into constant conflicts with the police, there were several times as a high school student, when running around with friends in my car, that patrolling police officers would routinely stop us, particularly at night, to check to see if we had a drivers license, or to question if we had robbed any banks or knew of others who might? Again, the dismal feelings that I had from my earliest encounter, would come flooding back to me in my adolescent years. The point being is that when someone with an official badge, and a gun, and a nightstick stop you, for no apparent reason (s), and no real reason is offered as to why they stopped you in the first place, that makes a young person feel powerless and uncomfortable. When these things take place under the cloak of darkness, your words to the police generally fall by the weight of their lack of interests in your explanation. As with Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, when he said that he could not breathe, the site officer did not adhere to that information at all. Deaf ears by police is one of the crucial elements of why many black youth vs uniform police encounters end badly.

### The World Trust Educational Services, Inc

I was watching cable television on August 2, 2020, channel 348, and watched a show about restorative justice. The essence of this 45 - minute television piece was that it asked the question about the criminal justice system, "Do we want diversion and punishment, or restorative justice as the outcome of an upgraded policing system"? Underlying that question was questionings about returning angry people to society, after they have been further separated from the larger society by unequal sentence structures. Restorative Justice Groups asks of the victims of crimes the following three questions: 1. Who Was Harmed? 2. What do they need? 3. Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?

Restorative Justice is part of the online network [www.world-trust.org](http://www.world-trust.org) The television piece suggested that for schools to offer restorative justice in their anti-bullying programs, would

help to turn out better morally prepared adults for the future. This would assist policing in not having crisis – oriented folks on police staffs, but people who understand how to treat people who have made a mistake or two in their lives. This would also encourage a better sentencing guidelines entourage of judges and lawyers, to provide a more equitable sentencing process for both civil and criminal cases. It would also help us to know how to measure Justice, instead of measuring Crimes.

### The Need to Define the Motto: “To Protect and Serve All”

In referencing a progressive activist and independent news site resource, the Alter Net “History of the Origins of Police: Protecting and Serving the Masters of Society”, 02/2015, has indicated that “there was never a time when the big city police neutrally enforced “the law” – nor, for that matter, a time when the law itself was neutral. “Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the North, the police mostly arrested people for the vaguely defined “crimes” of disorderly conduct and vagrancy, which meant that they could target anyone they saw as a threat to “order”. “In the post bellum South, they enforced white supremacy and largely arrested black people on trumped – up charges in order to feed them into convict labor systems.”

### Suggested Ideas for Policing Reform Policies Nationally

The current understanding by most citizens in most States in the U.S.A., with regards to the mission statement of our police system is: “We Serve and Protect All”, simply does not get operationalized in most police departments. I feel that if our current police officials would adopt the following training components for both veteran and new recruits, both commanding officers and subordinates, that our citizenry would have a more comfortable outlook for our working relationship with the police moving forward.

1. Re-define what is the root mission statement for operating as a police department, for either the county or the city? Is it to protect and serve all citizens, regardless of class, race, or any other characteristics? Or is it to manage the marginalized and keep a sense of societal order and social control?
2. Make it mandatory for all patrolling police officers, regardless of their conducting drug interdictions, monitoring organized crime, or other felonious activities, and to have their body cameras operating always. If an officer disrupts or stops their body cameras from operating, while working, then they must provide a written partner - corroborated explanation, as to why the camera was prevented from operating.
3. Police training should include but not limited to: Cultural and race relations, to include updated information about cultural identifications that contribute to our community. Question? When there are 3 – 4 black or Hispanic youths in starters jackets, are they different from 3-4 white youths who are wearing starters jackets under the cloak of darkness? Is one group a gang, while another group is simply a group of young people?

4. There needs to be community offices through out Topeka, where any citizen or visitors to our city, can stop by for help and assistance. While the operating hours might vary, those outposts would be helpful, as visible signs that Topeka police are a significant part of the community.
5. Every 3 months should be in-service time, for all officers to receive cultural training on it's citizenry, including Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, White Americans, LGBTQ/Tranny individuals and groups, and invite any other groups needing a voice, to be heard by the Police .
6. There needs to be an understanding that the police do interrogations, while mental health professionals do empathic responding, interviews, and social histories. If necessary, counselors or social workers should team up from time to time, to lay the ground- work for Topekans to feel that their voices are being heard during home visits or patrols.
7. All active shooter cases should have a citizen review board, made up of a broad area of professionals, to review the force used, and whether it was necessary.
8. I believe that we need an updated history book, that is a recommendation for our Topeka Public School System. Our officers are people and they operate from a personal position, based upon the historical information that they have been provided in school. Amazon.Com has The African American Experience: A History that reflects the true substance about African Americans, that should be in every classroom in America. We are all operating on false racial information, which causes great difficulties for future generations to know who they are. This is a critical educational area of concern if uniform policing upgrades are to have ultimate positive results.
9. College campuses all need to have mandatory entry level cultural relations classes, that all freshmen student must take. The college professors all must have cultural relations classes in their resumes, as part of the professionalism of the campus staff. This transforms into policing areas of interests, as many misunderstandings about race occur on college campuses everywhere.

*Preston R. Williams LMSW*

*August 3, 2020*

**FINAL DRAFT**

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Dr. Glenda Overstreet <doctorglendao@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - Kansas POC  
**Attachments:** POC.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

See attached.

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Dr. Glenda Overstreet <doctorglendao@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; Glenda DuBoise  
**Subject:** Fwd: Police reform

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached is the letter of support from Ann Mah. Thank you Brenda.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ann Mah <[annmah@att.net](mailto:annmah@att.net)>  
Date: Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 8:09 AM  
Subject: Police reform  
To: [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) <[cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org)>  
CC: [topekacpj@gmail.com](mailto:topekacpj@gmail.com) <[topekacpj@gmail.com](mailto:topekacpj@gmail.com)>

Honorable Mayor and Topeka City Council Members:

I am writing today in support of long-term police and justice reform in our community. As a white woman I have never had to have “that talk” with my son. You know. The one where you explain how careful he should be if he is stopped by the police. Even though my son was stopped by the police more than once, I never worried that he would not come out of that encounter okay. I cannot say the same for my friends of color who are parents. I cannot even begin to understand that fear. I can empathize, but that is not enough. I must act to make change.

As a member of the state board of education, my interest is in ensuring that our students of color have the chance to grow up, graduate, and stay out of prison. For my part, I am working on racial injustice in our public schools. But we need more than that. We need you to address better policing. Some topics that have been suggested to be discussed include the use of force, de-escalation tactics, more effective use of personnel, and other strategies that improve policing in our community. A citizens’ review board is something that is working well in other communities and could work here as well.

One thing that has bothered me is how the discussion about this whole topic has turned toxic recently. There is not a binary choice between supporting our police officers and police reform. We can choose both. Our men and women in blue run toward danger every day and I appreciate their service. But we can always improve. Now is the time to address how we make that happen.

I thank you for your service and appreciate that you are taking time to listen. I know you have a difficult job, but I trust that you will make changes for the better for our community.

Sincerely,

Ann Mah

3351 SE Meadowview Dr.

Topeka, KS 66605

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:22 PM  
**To:** Brenda Younger  
**Cc:** doctorglendao@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: KANSAS NAACP LETTER OF SUPPORT  
**Attachments:** Kansas State NAACP Police Reform.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I apologize this was omitted in error. Please include it in the Mainstream Voices of Faith's packet.

Thanks.

Glenda DuBoise  
785 220-5034

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Dr. Glenda Overstreet" <[doctorglendao@gmail.com](mailto:doctorglendao@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** August 24, 2020 at 7:34:03 AM CDT  
**To:** [glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org](mailto:glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org)  
**Subject:** KANSAS NAACP LETTER OF SUPPORT

See Attached



### **Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches**

For generations, black and brown parents have given their children “the talk”—instructing them never to run down the street; always keep your hands where they can be seen; do not even think of talking back to a stranger—all out of fear of how an officer with a gun will react to them.

We must not pretend that the countless people who are routinely targeted by police are “isolated.” They are the canaries in the coal mine whose deaths, civil and literal, warn us that no one can breathe in this atmosphere. . . . They are the ones who recognize that unlawful police stops corrode all our civil liberties and threaten all our lives. Until their voices matter too, our justice system will continue to be anything but.

—Dissent of Justice Sonia Sotomayor in *Utah v. Strieff*

Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Sam DuBose, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, . . . . The litany of Black people who have lost their lives at the hands of the police or in police custody seems endless. People are killed and brutalized, but the legal system gives us no relief. Police officer after police officer is either not charged or acquitted. Police who kill are given paid vacation instead of being held accountable.



The State of Kansas and the City of Topeka are no exceptions. It is imperative that we continue to press for and support policing reform to ensure ongoing improvements are an inevitable part of our way of life.

We are committed to being strategic partners in ensuring change in policing reform while also working to eliminate systemic racism in our law enforcement, judicial and state systems.

Sincerely,

Kenya Cox  
President

Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn  
Political Action Chair

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. The State of Kansas has a membership of over 2000.

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Glenda DuBoise <glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:18 AM  
**To:** Brenda Younger; City Clerk  
**Cc:** Dr. Glenda Overstreet  
**Subject:** RE: Additional Information - TCPJ Mainstream Voices of Faith Packet  
**Attachments:** Citizen's Review Board Final Police Dept Draft Ordinance 08.25.20.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your response.

The following additional document is attached:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS REGARDING THE TOPEK CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD.**

Please confirm receipt and if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks again for your work and willingness to get this done

*Glenda DuBoise*

Executive Director

Topeka Center for Peace & Justice

Email: [glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org](mailto:glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org)

Office: 785 232-4388

Cell: 785 220-5034

2914 SW MacVicar Ave.

Topeka, KS 66611



---

**From:** [Brenda Younger](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:10 AM

**To:** [Glenda DuBoise](#); [City Clerk](#)

**Subject:** RE: Additional Information - TCPJ Mainstream Voices of Faith Packet

Please send only the document.

Thanks

---

**From:** Glenda DuBoise [<mailto:glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:03 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Additional Information - TCPJ Mainstream Voices of Faith Packet

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have a critical additional document to add to the packet of information that was sent. Would you prefer that I send that one document to be added or to resend the complete packet?

I apologize for the omission and I look forward to receiving your response.

Thanks

*Glenda DuBoise*

Executive Director

Topeka Center for Peace & Justice

Email: [glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org](mailto:glenda.duboise@topekacpj.org)

Office: 785 232-4388

Cell: 785 220-5034

2914 SW MacVicar Ave.

Topeka, KS 66611



## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:40 AM  
**To:** Brenda Younger; Bill Cochran; Christina Valdivia-Alcala; Brent Trout; Craig G Duke; Hannah Naeger; Karen A. Hiller; Michelle De La Isla; Michael Lesser; Michael Padilla; Neil Dobler; Spencer Duncan; Sylvia Ortiz; Tony Emerson  
**Subject:** tonights meeting information  
**Attachments:** letter to city,police and fire.doc; Police Dept letter to Lt. John Sturgeon.doc.wps

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read documents before tonights meeting. See attached

I will be forewording letters I have recieved on this matter.

Teresa Miller

August 25, 2020

Teresa Miller  
1820 N W Polk St  
Topeka, Kansas 66608  
785-234-0840

To Governing Body, Police Chief  
Bill Cochran, Fire Chief Craig Duke  
and others:

My name is Teresa Miller. Most of you know who I am or you have heard of me. Please read this letter with an open mind and heart. But please read it all the way through, it's very important that you hear what I have to say.

I went two weeks ago to a meeting that the police deptment held. They wanted to hear from people at the end of the meeting about concerns people had. I was the first person up. I tried to use what happened to me as an example, to explain what needs to be looked at in the department. But I was shut down as soon as I opened my mouth. And was told to talk to the Police Chief or someone else about my problem. As soon as that was said, the Police Chief and the Fire Chief left. How can anyone talk to someone that does not stay to the end of the meet to answer questions people might ask them.

I planned to come to this meeting you are holding tonight, because I believe that all of you care to help look at and fix the problems people are addressing to you. But I can not make it. This is why I am sending all of you so much paperwork. I'm on the Shawnee County Park and Recreation Board and our meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.. And this meeting is a very important meeting tonight also.

At the meeting that I went to hear and talk to the Police Department, I did talk with Mr. Ed Collazo. He was the person I was told to turn in the complaint on the officer I had a problem with. Mr. Collazo did take care of the problem with the officer in question, but nothing has been done about why I called the police in the first place. Nor what happened to me when the police got there. I have been trying since November 2019 to find someone that well listen and help me. I tried to have a conversation with the Police Chief, Bill Cocoran. But it seems every single time he sees me coming he turns and walks away or leaves. I've tried smiling at him and I've even tried to say hello to him at a City Council meeting, but I got the cold shoulder. I

just don't understand why. People should not judge another person by what they have heard from other people. They need to make up their own minds, before they treat that person badly. I'm open for suggestions on that one. I have talked with Fire Chief Craig Duke about the problem I had with getting the information I needed from the fireman that were at my house the night of the incident. I will attach the letter explaining the incident in November for you to read.

I can not get anyone to listen to me or help me in the Police or Fire Department. This is why people are so upsets with system. It's broken, they say they want to hear from you, but when you try to tell them what wrong, they don't want to hear it. And they label you as a trouble maker.

Please open your minds and hearts and listen to the people in the city that you serve. You would be surprised what you hear that needs a little tender loving care from you and others working together.

Sincerely,

Teresa Miller

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:45 AM  
**To:** Brenda Younger; Bill Cochran; Christina Valdivia-Alcala; Brent Trout; Craig G Duke; Hannah Naeger; Karen A. Hiller; Michelle De La Isla; Michael Lesser; Michael Padilla; Neil Dobler; Spencer Duncan; Sylvia Ortiz; Tony Emerson  
**Subject:** Fw: PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006  
**Attachments:** Calls for service changes .pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Edward M. Collazo <ecollazo@topeka.org>  
**To:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020, 04:05:47 PM CDT  
**Subject:** RE: PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006

Dear Ms. Miller:

So sorry about your health problems! Like you, I also suffer from asthma so I understand your perspective in your complaint. These are not easy times we are living in.

The police department just put out a policy in response to the epidemic (please see attached). They are prioritizing calls to basically emergencies only. All other reports should be done by phone or email. A person may also go into the police station and provide information to the officer behind the desk. After we get through this, you can contact a shift commander, who is a lieutenant, and if you're not satisfied with the answers at this level, you can always ask to speak to their supervisor which would be a captain.

However, if you ever feel threatened or have any other need to call the police, please do not hesitate to do so.

The non-emergency number is, 368-9551. You can also file a report on-line at [www.topeka.org/tpd](http://www.topeka.org/tpd) There, towards the bottom of the page you will find a link to file a report on-line.

I believe you will find that the Topeka Police Department is willing to help and listen.

Please take care of yourself!

Best,

Ed Collazo

**From:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** Edward M. Collazo <ecollazo@topeka.org>  
**Subject:** Re: PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Collazo,

Thank you for getting back with me. I'm sorry I didn't call you back yesterday. I have been having stress headaches lately and not sleeping much. So it's been a little rough for me. You did explain some things to me. But can you tell me who I'm to talk to about the charges I wanted to make, plus someone I can talk to about the situation that has been going on with this person.

Teresa Miller

On Thursday, March 19, 2020, 10:09:05 AM CDT, Edward M. Collazo <[ecollazo@topeka.org](mailto:ecollazo@topeka.org)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Miller:

Please allow me to begin by introducing myself, my name is Ed Collazo and I am the independent police auditor for the City of Topeka. Part of my duties include reviewing any allegations against the Topeka Police Department. I work outside of the police department as a civilian who independently reviews police conduct.

In response to your email, I called and left a message for you at phone number 234-0840, yesterday at 11:23 am. In addition, I have reviewed the following:

4 – Axon videos (2 from each officer)  
Dispatch log  
complaint  
Disposition  
PSU case summary

After reviewing the documents and media related to this incident, I find, as did the professional standards unit, that Officer Childers contact with you was in fact inappropriate. PSU found the complaint to be sustained, which means that there was sufficient evidence to find the officer violated Topeka Police Department policy, specifically; improper conduct – courtesy, in violation of TPD policy rules of conduct 4.9.R.1.

Please note that my role is specifically related to the officer's conduct and my review of the documents and the media files are for that purpose. I note this because in your complaint you express a concern relating to a potential threat by a neighbor. I do not make any determination as to the officer's decision to file charges or not. This is a decision made by



the officer in the street and is based on the totality of the circumstances as presented to the officer at the time of the incident. I will also note that although I have access to the media files, it is for the sole purpose of my review and not to be viewed by others. I do not have the authority to share these files with anyone else.

I hope that this email helps explain any questions you may have had relating to the incident. If there is anything else I may be able to assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct number is 368-3730.

Very truly yours,

Ed Collazo

---

**From:** teresa miller <[teresa-miller@att.net](mailto:teresa-miller@att.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:18 AM  
**To:** Edward M. Collazo <[ecollazo@topeka.org](mailto:ecollazo@topeka.org)>  
**Cc:** Christina Alcalá <[cvalcaladist2@gmail.com](mailto:cvalcaladist2@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fw: PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Collazo,

Christina Valdivia-Alcalá had asked me to send you an e-mail about the problem I had with a Police Officer. Now it seems not only am I being mistreated by the police officer mentioned, but the dept also. Please help.

Teresa Miller

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** teresa miller <[teresa-miller@att.net](mailto:teresa-miller@att.net)>  
**To:** John Sturgeon <[jsturgeon@topeka.org](mailto:jsturgeon@topeka.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 08:57:27 AM CDT  
**Subject:** Re: PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006

Lieutenant John Sturgeon,

If I'm reading this right. It's okay to blame the victim that called for help in the first place. Then let the person that she called the police for help on, come onto her property to do bodily harm. When the person she called about vehicle was on her property setting in front of signs that said private property keep out and no trespassing. This person in the past had threatened her life. There is a 911 phone call of this. Plus was asked to testify against him to help put him away. Was not allowed to issue any type of complaint or ticket. Instead it was okay for your officer in front of three firemen to put the blame on the victim. I really feel safe in my home now. You wonder why people don't trust the police dept. This is why.

Teresa Miller

On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 07:35:31 AM CDT, John Sturgeon <[jsturgeon@topeka.org](mailto:jsturgeon@topeka.org)> wrote:

Teresa Miller,

The Topeka Police Department Professional Standards Unit (PSU) has completed an investigation into the circumstances surrounding your contact with officers on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at your residence. Your concerns regarding how that situation was handled were detailed in a citizen complaint filed on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020..

The purpose of an investigation into a citizen's complaint is to determine if the officer involved in the incident in question violated any law, policy, rule, or accepted law enforcement practice. In this case we identified one issue as described in your complaint that merited such a review. That issue was:

1. The manner in which OFC Childers interacted with you.

With regard to this issue, the investigation determined that OFC Childers interacted with you contrary to TPD policy. As a result, your complaint will be classified as sustained. Sustained means that the allegation made was found to be factual and was substantiated by competent evidence.

Any administrative action taken by the department with regard to the findings in this case is considered to be a personnel matter and is not subject to disclosure under Kansas law. I am therefore unable to provide you with information regarding any administrative action or corrective steps taken.

Please understand that every effort was made to conduct an objective and thorough review of your concerns. Thank you for bringing this situation to our attention. It is important for the Police Department to look into all citizen complaints and we greatly appreciate your willingness to participate in the investigation and resolution process. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions in this regard.



Lieutenant John Sturgeon  
Certified Public Manager (CPM)  
Professional Standards Unit  
Topeka Police Department  
320 S Kansas Ave Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-368-9214 office  
785-861-9748 mobile  
[jsturgeon@topeka.org](mailto:jsturgeon@topeka.org)

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**From:** teresa miller [<mailto:teresa-miller@att.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 7:41 AM  
**To:** John Sturgeon  
**Cc:** Jeffrey Zimmerman  
**Subject:** Officer Childers and fireman

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lt. John Sturgeon,

Sorry it has taken so long to get this letter to you. I've been very sick this past month. If you have any questions please call. My phone number is 785-234-0840.

Thank you,

Teresa Miller



## TOPEKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bill Cochran, Chief of Police  
320 S Kansas Avenue Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: (785) 368-9551  
[www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org)

Contact for further information: Gretchen Koenen, [tpdmedia@topeka.org](mailto:tpdmedia@topeka.org)

March 19, 2020

### **Topeka Police announce changes in response to local disaster emergency declaration**

TOPEKA, Kan. – In response to the local disaster emergency declaration in Shawnee County, the Topeka Police Department is temporarily modifying its process for responding to non-emergency calls for service. Calls for service will be prioritized by placing the greatest emphasis on emergency calls.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, individuals who are involved in non-injury crashes and other non-emergency calls for service are asked to call 785-368-9551 and speak to an officer over the phone to make a report. Citizens are also able to make reports in person at the Topeka Police Department's front desk which is located in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center at 320 S Kansas Ave. This process is similar to the walk-in accident reporting phase. It is important to note, the front desk is protected by glass and is in compliance with social distancing guidelines.

Citizens are also able to use the online citizen reporting form at [www.topeka.org/tpd/citizen-reporting/](http://www.topeka.org/tpd/citizen-reporting/) to make various non-emergency reports. The phone lines and online reporting forms are being monitored by multiple officers.

Emergency calls, those which involve an immediate threat to a person or property should be reported to 911. If a person is not sure that what they are experiencing is an emergency, they can call 911 and a dispatcher will assist.

"I want the citizens of Topeka to know that we remain fully operational and open for business 24/7. Our lobby remains open to the public for non-emergency reports. You can rely on the Topeka Police Department during this time," said Chief Bill Cochran.

These changes are being made to limit the social spread of COVID-19 and protect our officers and the citizens we serve. We ask that if you have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) to please let the dispatcher know, so we can take precautions when we interact with you. Preventative measures are also being taken to protect officers and citizens. Officers may wear masks, surgical gowns and other protective gear depending on the nature of the call for service.

This is an evolving situation and the Topeka Police Department continues to evaluate how we can best serve our community during this time. We encourage the community to follow us on social media where we will continue to provide updates and share new information.

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:50 AM  
**To:** Brenda Younger; Bill Cochran; Christina Valdivia-Alcala; Brent Trout; Hannah Naeger; Karen A. Hiller; Michelle De La Isla; Michael Lesser; Michael Padilla; Neil Dobler; Spencer Duncan; Sylvia Ortiz; Tony Emerson  
**Subject:** Fw: PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006  
**Attachments:** image001.png

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** John Sturgeon <[jsturgeon@topeka.org](mailto:jsturgeon@topeka.org)>  
**To:** teresa miller <[teresa-miller@att.net](mailto:teresa-miller@att.net)>  
**Cc:** Jeffrey Zimmerman <[jzimmerman@topeka.org](mailto:jzimmerman@topeka.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 07:35:31 AM CDT  
**Subject:** PSU complaint disposition 20TR-0006

Teresa Miller,

The Topeka Police Department Professional Standards Unit (PSU) has completed an investigation into the circumstances surrounding your contact with officers on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at your residence. Your concerns regarding how that situation was handled were detailed in a citizen complaint filed on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020..

The purpose of an investigation into a citizen's complaint is to determine if the officer involved in the incident in question violated any law, policy, rule, or accepted law enforcement practice. In this case we identified one issue as described in your complaint that merited such a review. That issues was:

1. The manner in which OFC Childers interacted with you.

With regard to this issue, the investigation determined that OFC Childers interacted with you contrary to TPD policy. As a result, your complaint will be classified as sustained. Sustained means that the allegation made was found to be factual and was substantiated by competent evidence.

Any administrative action taken by the department with regard to the findings in this case is considered to be a personnel matter and is not subject to disclosure under Kansas law. I am therefore unable to provide you with information regarding any administrative action or corrective steps taken.

Please understand that every effort was made to conduct an objective and thorough review of your concerns. Thank you for bringing this situation to our attention. It is important for the Police Department to look into all citizen complaints and we greatly appreciate your willingness to participate in the investigation and resolution process. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions in this regard.



---

Lieutenant John Sturgeon

Certified Public Manager (CPM)

Professional Standards Unit

Topeka Police Department

320 S Kansas Ave Suite 100

Topeka, KS 66603

785-368-9214 office

785-861-9748 mobile

[jsturgeon@topeka.org](mailto:jsturgeon@topeka.org)

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---

**From:** teresa miller [<mailto:teresa-miller@att.net>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 7:41 AM

**To:** John Sturgeon

**Cc:** Jeffrey Zimmerman

**Subject:** Officer Childers and fireman

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lt. John Sturgeon,

Sorry it has taken so long to get this letter to you. I've been very sick this past month. If you have any questions please call. My phone number is 785-234-0840.

Thank you,

Teresa Miller

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:07 AM  
**To:** Brenda Younger; Bill Cochran; Christina Valdivia-Alcala; Brent Trout; Craig G Duke; Hannah Naeger; Karen A. Hiller; Michelle De La Isla; Michael Lesser; Michael Padilla; Neil Dobler; Spencer Duncan; Sylvia Ortiz; Tony Emerson  
**Subject:** tonight meeting information

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Everyone,

If you have any questions about what I have sent, please send me a e-mail and I will try to answer your questions. I hope I have not left anything out.

I hope you understand, part of the system is broken and needs someone to fix it.

I have always backed the Police Dept and Fire Dept, even when I think sometimes they could do before.

That was why North Topeka West NIA that I am President of has backed our Police and fire Depts with the National Night Out. But this year due to the COVID-19 we will not be holding one. Which saddens me.

I do support both the Police and Fire Dept . I hope they understand that.

Teresa Miller

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:49 AM  
**To:** Brenda Younger; Bill Cochran; Christina Valdivia-Alcala; Brent Trout; Craig G Duke; Hannah Naeger; Karen A. Hiller; Michelle De La Isla; Michael Lesser; Michael Padilla; Neil Dobler; Spencer Duncan; Sylvia Ortiz; Tony Emerson  
**Subject:** Fw: SPCP 8/13/20 Meeting - T. Miller  
**Attachments:** image003.png

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Everyone,

It sounds like I had some type of talk with our Police Chief. Once again this is not true. The only talk I had with he that I can remember is the five seconds at City Council I tried to talk with him.

Then he has listed how many time I have called in to the police Dept. as if I'm causing trouble by calling. Is it not there saying SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING! That's what I was doing. When I seen something that was not right, I called in. Trying to be a good neighbor.

I have tried several times to tell the Police Dept I wanted to file a report on the man that was parked in my driveway screaming at me. On my house is two signs in which the Police Dept told me to put on my house when I had a drug house next door for five years that was not handled very well my the Police Dept. These signs say, "No Trespassing" and "Private Property Keep Out". This was what the man I wanted charges filed on was parked in front of in my driveway. This man has gone to prison for pistol whipping people and almost killing someone. But according to our Police Chief, there is nothing for me to file charge for.

Did anyone mention that this firefighter is a close friend of this man that was sitting in my drive. That he was always over to this man property or next door doing something he should not be doing if he is a fireman.

So now when or if I call in anything I'm listed a a trouble maker of the neighborhood.

I think it's time to elect our Police Chiefs just like we do our Sherriff. This does not mean anything against Chief Cochran. It should have been this way a long time ago.

Teresa Miller

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Christina Valdivia-Alcala <cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org>  
**To:** teresa miller <teresa-miller@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 07:25:29 AM CDT  
**Subject:** Fw: SPCP 8/13/20 Meeting - T. Miller

Morning.

This is response from Chief.

Christina Valdivia-Alcalá, Councilwoman  
City of Topeka District 2  
(785) 233-7110  
[cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org](mailto:cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org)

---

From: Bill Cochran



Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:47:56 PM  
To: City Council; Michelle De La Isla  
Cc: Brent Trout; Lisa Robertson; Mark S. Jones; Bryan Wheeles; Craig G Duke; Edward M. Collazo  
Subject: SPCP 8/13/20 Meeting - T. Miller

CW Valdivia-Alcala:

Again, this issue has been investigated and followed-up on several times. There is nothing further to be explored here. There is no complaint for Mrs. Miller to file.

Here is information that was sent to the City Manager, Chief Duke and Mr. Collazo on July 21st:

Sir:

As you know this event took place in November of 2019 and it was in reference to an illegal burn called in by Mrs. Miller on her neighbor at 1825 NW Tyler. Mrs. Miller is under the belief that the firemen who arrived at the scene were told by the neighbor that he was going to assault her. The neighbor went over to Mrs. Miller's drive way and was yelling and cussing at her because she had called in the burn again. The neighbor was gone before officers arrived and Mrs. Miller never had contact or conversation with the neighbor, so no person to person contact or direct threat was made which means no crime took place.

Mrs. Miller is under the assumption that the firemen who were on scene told the officer that the neighbor had made a threat to them towards her. What was said by the firemen was Mrs. Miller was a frequent caller and reports stuff on the neighbor all time and he was probably over there to assault her. The officer that was told that did handle the call unprofessionally and as a result she filed a complaint on January 8, 2020. The complaint was sustained, which then made it a personnel issue.

In 2019 there were 24 calls for service at in the 1800 block NW Tyler and 1800 block of NW Polk

- Mrs. Miller was the complainant of 8 of these call
- o March 5th – 3 subjects on bikes were in her yard and the came from 1825 NW Tyler, subjects were gone
- o March 5th – Loud music complaint at 1825 NW Tyler, officers did not hear any music
- o April 21st – Call about individuals going through peoples mailboxes
- o July 14th – Reported subjects at 1825 NW Tyler are lighting sticks of dynamite, subject said it was the dumpster lid shutting
- o August 7th – Other 8-10 people behind an address smoking marijuana, officers could not locate anyone
- o September 13th – Gun shots in the area, officer did not locate any victims
- o September 27th – Other subject on a bike taking clothes out of bag and throwing them in the street, call was a domestic related call
- o November 4th – Disturbance that started after a stolen bike was returned, caller felt threatened by the juvenile because he kept staring at her
- o November 15th – Other caller called in an illegal burn, turned out to be a small contained cooking fire
- o November 19th Other caller called in an illegal burn (the call that spurred this complaint), fire reported it was not an illegal burn

When Mrs. Miller approached me at City Council I told her to contact LT Trimble, which she did not so I had him reach out to her. The following is from him on January 8, 2020 @ 1641 hours:  
I spoke to Ms. Miller this afternoon. I also spoke to her back in November/December about the same incident she is still complaining about.

Summary of Complaint:

11-19-2019: She called dispatch to report neighbor for burning trash/debris in his yard causing too much smoke. TFD and TPD (OFC XXXXX and another unknown officer) responded. TFD reported to her that the neighbor was not in violation because the fire was in a pit of some sort. At some point, the neighbor made a comment to a firefighter that Ms. Miller did not hear but assumes was a threat towards her. Ms. Miller demands that the firefighter tell her what the neighbor says. He refuses. OFC Childers is demanded by Ms. Miller to find out what the firefighter was told by the neighbor. He refuses. She states that OFC Childers then tells her to quit calling in false complaints on the neighbor and to quit wasting the firefighters' time.

Ms. Miller is upset because she said she came down to file a complaint and the front desk officer told her he would give the complaint to me. I never received any complaints about this aside from our first phone call. She wanted to talk to PSU but when she found out they were not here at the LEC anymore, she just filled out the complaint at the desk.

Conclusion:

Today, as I did last time we spoke on the phone, I explained to her that the neighbor talking to the firefighter did not constitute a criminal threat based on what information she gave me. I explained to her that if she felt OFC XXXXXX was rude or unprofessional, she could definitely file a formal complaint and gave her the processes to do such. Ultimately, just as I did last time, I gave her LT Sturgeon's office number and she said that was all she needed and thanked me for my time.

It appears Mrs. Miller believes there was a threat made to the firemen by the neighbor at 1825 NW Tyler directed towards her. That is why she wants to talk to the firemen (one who is now retired) to get statements from them to try and establish probable cause for a criminal charge that does not exist. That is also why the neighbor has not been arrested and why there is no criminal report documenting the threat. I believe this incident has been investigated thoroughly.

Please let me know if there is anything else that needs to be done reference this.

Respectfully,

Chief Cochran

As far as the SPCP, there was a format that was being followed. Mrs. Miller's comments were not germane to the topics being discussed. The comments that she refers to from other attendees were pointed at the topics being discussed. I am not sure if you were at the meeting or saw it on channel 4, but Mrs. Millers comment that I "bolted" right after that is a BOLD FACE LIE. I stayed around after both meetings and spoke with several citizens afterwards. Unfortunately, in life some people are just never satisfied with the outcome of a particular situation.

Respectfully,

Chief Cochran

[cid:image001.png@01D3944C.CF6ABAA0]

Bill Cochran  
Chief  
Topeka Police Department  
320 S Kansas Ave Suite #100  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-368-9437  
[wcochran@topeka.org](mailto:wcochran@topeka.org)<mailto:[wcochran@topeka.org](mailto:wcochran@topeka.org)>

From: Christina Valdivia-Alcala <[cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org](mailto:cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org)><mailto:[cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org](mailto:cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org)>>  
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:54 AM  
To: Bill Cochran <[wcochran@topeka.org](mailto:wcochran@topeka.org)><mailto:[wcochran@topeka.org](mailto:wcochran@topeka.org)>>  
Cc: City Council <[Council@topeka.org](mailto:Council@topeka.org)><mailto:[Council@topeka.org](mailto:Council@topeka.org)>>; Brent Trout <[btrout@topeka.org](mailto:btrout@topeka.org)><mailto:[btrout@topeka.org](mailto:btrout@topeka.org)>>; Michelle De La Isla <[MDeLalsla@topeka.org](mailto:MDeLalsla@topeka.org)><mailto:[MDeLalsla@topeka.org](mailto:MDeLalsla@topeka.org)>>  
Subject: SPCP 8/13/20 Meeting - T. Miller

Good morning.

Please see a partial excerpt from an email written by North Topeka West NIA President, Teresa Miller. Teresa is also a lifelong resident of District 2.

"Christina,

They said that this meeting takes place of the quartly meeting they use to have. And when I tried to talk about what happened to me the lady officer shut me down. Told me that I needed to talk with the Police Chief or someone else at the end of the meeting. Well that would of been nice , but the Police Chief booked it as soon as she said that. Collaso

came up to me and gave me his card. I told him that I already had talked with him, but I need someone to take care of the rest of the problem from that night. That I needed to know what was said to the other police officer that was there. I told him that one of the firemen talked with the second police officer and that I needed to know what was said. And that I wanted to press charges on the man that threatened me. He just looked at me. He does not understand what people are needing out of them."

I watched both SPCP meetings and I witnessed a number of folks going "off topic" and even individuals highly attacking and aggressive of SPCP members that were not not shut down the way Teresa Miller was. I heard folks at the podium talk about the masks ordinance with John Nave (off topic) and she was allowed her full time to continue. I even heard a woman that declared she did not live in Topeka, however, she "spent a lot of money" in Topeka and she was awarded the right to speak until she was done.

Teresa Miller was on topic. She was speaking exactly to the type of issues SPCP states they want to hear. Both TPD and citizens on the board stated that was their mission.

Teresa spoke to a North Topeka sentiment that I heard over and over as I went door to door in the summer and fall for election. The lack of concern by many on TPD that come out for calls, the disregard and lack of respect by some on the force when they are called to citizen homes. The lack of patrols. The lack of communication and transparency. She was on point. Yet she was disrespectfully shut down. Many believe they receive this treatment because of the side of town they live on. Is it?

Teresa Miller also believes her case was not thoroughly evaluated by TPD or IPA. She believes she was threatened by her neighbor that has a history of violent tendencies and has spent time in prison. She states she was threatened twice. She wants to press charges and she needs not just my help - she needs someone on TPD to assist her. She did not need the IPA because I too have experienced, in advocating for her, that realm has been exhausted. She was told to get with you Chief after the meeting but no one but she states you had left.

Please advise on how this can be addressed. I am also forwarding this to the SPCP committee. I do believe the meetings were beneficial for the community - yet the true mission needs to be exemplified towards average folks that believe they have no where else to go and want to be part of the solution.

Teresa is well known within COT and folks can say she is "too this or that" but that makes no difference that her edges are rough. She still deserves to be heard. Teresa pays taxes and is an involved and active citizen - exactly what the SPCP and TPD state is vital and needed to help deal with a reduction in crime and to make a neighborhoods better.

Thank you.

Christina Valdivia-Alcalá, Councilwoman  
City of Topeka District 2  
(785) 233-7110  
[cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org](mailto:cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org)<mailto:[cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org](mailto:cvaldivia-alcala@topeka.org)>

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## Brenda Younger

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**From:** CARTER, MARIE <[mcarter@tps501.org](mailto:mcarter@tps501.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:09 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Police Reform

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **CARTER, MARIE** <[mcarter@tps501.org](mailto:mcarter@tps501.org)>  
Date: Tue, Aug 25, 2020, 9:06 AM  
Subject: Police Reform  
To: <[cclerck@topeka.org](mailto:cclerck@topeka.org)>

We all know there are bad people in honorable professions. Good people who make bad decisions, need consequences.

Also police officers are trained to be police officers, not social workers psychologists. They are not given the hours to train to deal with people with mental illness.

Reform, not defund.



Mainstream Voices of Faith

## DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS REGARDING THE TOPEKA CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

### Section 1: Membership

- A. The Board shall consist of no more than thirteen (13) members consisting of a cross section of citizens.
- B. Board membership shall reflect the diversity of the residents of the City of Topeka, including ethnicity, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic, and residency.
- C. Board members selected will be individuals with an interest or experience in police and/or community relations.
- D. Board members will exclude spouses, friends, chaplains, employees, and relatives of law enforcement.

### Section 2: Qualifications:

- A. Individuals must possess the following qualifications to be appointed to the Board:
  - 1. Adult members: At least 18 years of Age.
  - 2. Be a resident of the City of Topeka and Shawnee County.
  - 3. Not employed by the City of Topeka or be a family member of an employee of the City of Topeka (see other restrictions above in Section 1D).
  - 4. Be a citizen of the United States.
  - 5. Have no pending criminal charges in any local, state or federal jurisdiction or court of law.
  - 6. May not be on probation, parole, or participating in a diversion or deferred judgment agreement for any misdemeanor conviction for the following offenses:
    - a. Possession of controlled substances;
    - b. Battery or resist of a law enforcement officer;
    - c. Crimes of dishonesty or false statements; or
    - d. Crimes of moral turpitude;
  - 7. Is not registered as a sex offender with any state, country or local government.
  - 8. At least one full year after completion of sentence if convicted of a felony.
  - 9. Is not an elected local, state, or federal public official or a candidate for any such office.
  - 10. Is not a party or representative of a party making a claim against the City of Topeka for any action or inaction of an employee of the City of Topeka.

In addition to the above qualifications, all applicants (or members, where applicable) for appointment to the board must:

1. Be enrolled in the Topeka Police Departments Citizen's Police Academy within the third available academy session beginning after appointment;
2. Complete racial profiling training presented by the Kansas Attorney General within six (6) months of appointment.
3. Participate in KOMA/KORA training provided by the Kansas Attorney General's Office within a reasonable time after appointment.
4. Sign a confidentiality agreement that individual information reviewed and discussed regarding the post discipline review of a Professional Standards Investigation will be kept confidential but reported to the public with aggregate data in a quarterly reporting online or in print.

### **SECTION 3: Terms of Office and Removal**

- A. Board members shall serve a term of four years. In order to establish staggered terms, appointments shall begin January 1, 2021 and will include five members for a four-year term, four members for a three-year term, and four members for a two-year term. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a four-year term. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.
- B. In the event a vacancy occurs or the individual no longer meets the eligibility requirements during the term of any member, the City Council may appoint a successor to serve the unexpired term.
- C. A member may be removed by the City Council from the Board for the following reasons:
  1. No longer meets the eligibility requirements described in Section 2;
  2. Misses more than two (2) consecutive board meetings or fifty (50%) percent of board meetings in a twelve (12) month period;
  3. Fails to attend or complete racial profile training, KOMA/KORA training, and the Topeka Police Citizen Academy within the times specified in Section 2;
  4. Fails to comply with and abide by the terms of the confidentiality agreement for board membership.

### **SECTION 4: Meeting and Officers**

- A. The Board shall meet at least once monthly at the times and places established by the Board unless there is no business to conduct. Should there be no business to conduct or brought to the attention of the Board, a written notification will be sent to the board members noting the reason why such monthly meeting is not required. The meetings shall be subject to and shall abide by all applicable provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4317 and the Kansas Open Records Act, K.S.A. 45-215 et seq. The Chair, after notice, may call additional meetings if necessary to address significant or time sensitive issues.

- B. On or before February 1 of each year, the Board shall meet and organize its membership by electing a chairperson vice-chairperson and secretary. The terms of such offices shall be for a period not to exceed two years.
- C. A member of the Topeka Police Department shall attend all meetings.
- D. It is appropriate for the Board to determine if it is beneficial to create a youth sub-committee that is used to share communication regarding best practices for enhancing police relations with community youth.
- E. It is appropriate for the Board to determine if it would be effective to set up semi-annual Town Hall meetings with the Topeka and Shawnee County community to engage in dialogue with the community at large regarding reporting of aggregate statistics and to hear feedback from the community on ways to enhance police relations. These Town Hall meetings can be scheduled in place of monthly Board meetings.
- F. Notice and minutes of all meetings shall be provided to the City Clerk to be posted on the City's website for community access.

#### **SECTION 5: Board Recommendations**

- A. Recommendations of the Board shall be approved by majority vote of the members present and voting. The quorum required for the Board to conduct business shall be the number of members representing at least one half (1/2) of the total number of members duly appointed to the Board. The Board may adopt lawful rules, regulations, and by-laws consistent with the provisions of this ordinance as it deems necessary for its operation.

#### **SECTION 6: Review of Post Discipline or Administrative Matters**

- A. In addition to investigating complaints provided to the Board by the Community and other responsibilities, the Board may review cases of misconduct of Topeka Police Department personnel investigated by Professional Standards Bureau. Only cases which are post discipline may be reviewed. Review shall not be heard until all pending case(s) and any applicable appeals, grievances or other review of the incident have been concluded. An automatic transition of information will be forwarded to the Board to review post discipline findings within three months from the date of discipline was imposed or completion of the investigation by Professional standards.
- B. Review of post discipline or administrative matters heard by the Board shall be considered to be the review of personnel matters. Disciplinary action is a confidential personnel matter and will only be revealed to the public in a reporting of aggregate data. Pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), the review of these matters will not be open to the public.

- C. The Board shall establish all necessary procedures to implement the review of post discipline matters brought before them. Including within these procedures will be notification to applicable police personnel involved in the review in accordance with the police Department Procedure Manual. All police reports, videos, interview or other investigative files submitted to the Board for review shall have the personal identifiers of all involved citizens, witnesses and officers redacted.
- D. The Board's review will be for the purpose of reviewing any applicable administrative regulations and advising the Chief of Police on practices, procedures and training relevant to issues or concerns uncovered as part of the investigation. Such advice will be put in writing follow-up data provided such as date submitted to Chief of Police, disposition taken, and appropriate timelines. The Board's review of community complaints will also be summarized for reporting to the community best practices, advising community of policies and procedures, and how to submit information for review.

#### **SECTION 7: Funding**

- A. The funding shall be provided by the City of Topeka to an independent organization structured to support a Topeka Community Office of Accountability and Transparency. Total proposed funding will be determined after a budget has been created to address administrative and investigative support. The budget allocated should reflect the importance and value of the CRB to effectively meet the demands presented by the community.

#### **SECTION 8: Subpoena Power**

- A. The Board shall by passage of this ordinance be provided with subpoena power to secure testimony as needed in its investigation and review of complaints or disciplinary action. As to whether such authority is used or needed during investigations is solely to the discretion of the Board.

#### **SECTION 9: Effective upon Passage**

- A. This ordinance shall be included in the Code of the City of Topeka, Kansas and shall be effective upon its passage and publication once in the official city paper.



## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Franklin Williams <frank1fearless@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:44 AM  
**To:** City Clerk; City Council; Brent Trout; brian.hill@snco.us; Gayle Mollenkamp; John Bradford; Lebailey49; Debra&Larry Dolecheck; Gerald Pfeiffer; A & S VODRASKA; Lois Winter; Jane Kobach; Ron Highland; Harold A. Stones; Barker John [house]; BRENDA DIETRICH; Rockie Broaddus; Bret Landrith; Shallenburger Tim [GO]; Eric Rucker; Morgan Chilson; tim hrenchir; Frank J. Buchman; Roe Garrett [KSOS]; Mykel Rae Taylor; Stanton County Director; Connie Mellies; Jerry Loney; Dwight Burnison; Dick Jones; Ken Corbet; Cyndi Beck; fred.patton@house.ks.gov; nosleeves21@gmail.com; William Falley; Kevin Cook; Myron Holter; heather.marten@snco.com; Aaron Mays; Bruce; Paul degener; Wagle Susan [Senate]; Josh Roe; Athena Andaya; Billy; paul@chapter7.ok.com; Phyllis Dawes; Brandon Bohning; ronald.ryckman@house.ks.gov; Bill Riphahn; Y Allen; Dale Dennis; Ernie Claudel; John Davis; Dr. John Rubin; Phyllis Dawes; bill.cochran@topeka.org; Brenda Younger  
**Subject:** Subject: Written comments plus much much more:  
**Attachments:** A Reform request 2020-08-25.pdf

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Reform and More for All:

Thank Tim Hrenchir and the Cap-Journal:

Now with the reaching out for reform let us go to the basics for resolve and results.

With a 7/28/2020 printout - - "Name on birth certificate does not match drivers license and"

Then in reverse for a valid review which came first any Birth Certificate would seemingly come first and any drivers licence to be developed and printed later.

Seemingly false writings is to be in review by those with Official duty or authority.

Now whom would that be - - Question OATH followed by filings.

Just what Question needs Answer for a place to start.

Any Reform some one was responsible or erudition required.

Then the next the - - [mocourtreform@yahoo.com](mailto:mocourtreform@yahoo.com) - - Dated Thur, Mar 2006 12:19:35 - 0800 (PST)

Had I had evidence that would show locals were in place that Mo. Reform could follow, otherwise it has left us to deal at best or not.

I am seeking the day and date certain with the Name of the one with duty or authority going forward from the point of existence.

That then took me to the proof for Authentication, Finalized, Certified.

Please see that this review evolves out of the best records and not otherwise.

The Title 18 USC Sections 4. and 1001 should be clear enough written and in print for which the Art. 1. Section 8. also printed clear enough for anyone with any learning self or otherwise would find it necessary.

This clearly is not all yet a place to start or just E-Mail me your best place to get started going forward.

Ask yourself just who you have proof of the first Official Act past or current.

Then see that I ge a copy Certified.

More soon just let me know when you will be inreview for what contents reveals.

Thanks to Tim Hrenchir and let me know what I should fully understand?

Franklin Dee Williams

cc: Others.

P.S.: Also re-incorporate all of the previously offered.

Some attachments refused to attach so let me know if you need more.

More specific any timely filed Charter?

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Sara Keckeisen <sarajkeckeisen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Topeka Human Relations Commission recommendations

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Topeka City Council,

I would like to add my voice to those of the Topeka Human Relations Commission, regarding their several recommendations relating to the Topeka police force.

I am in support of most of those recommendations, believing that--though we don't have the problems with our police force that many cities do--it is best to NOT let problems happen here in the first place. These recommendations--especially that to establish some sort of review or oversight group NOT affiliated with the police--deserve to be considered and implemented. Not firing a weapon at a fleeing suspect, abolishing no-knock warrants (when the police barged into Stephen Shively's apartment all those years ago without announcing themselves, over a minor drug issue, it was a policeman who suffered the consequences so the police themselves should be against that item), continuing to redirect some law enforcement funds to behavioral institutions to take the care of mentally ill people out of the hands of law enforcement, and so many other common sense suggestions should be adopted by our city.

Help Topeka remain a good, pretty safe place to live.

Thank you,  
Sara J. Keckeisen  
Topeka, KS

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Cindy Branson <luvnjohnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:24 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Special Session

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon ALCON:

I am writing this email as a concerned citizen of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas.

I would like to first say that I am at a loss for words after reading the "changes" that are in the HRC document regarding the Topeka Police Department. Are the folks proposing all of this aware that many things are already in place for the citizens of Topeka? The police department as a whole has an outstanding police force with accreditation that they have earned. They have continued to maintain that through training and taking appropriate action when necessary.

I would like to know exactly what training each member of the HRC, the City Council members, City of Topeka Mayor and City Manager Brent Trout along with any other appointed committee members have gone through to show the citizens of Topeka that you are fully aware of the training and procedures not only taught to Topeka Police Officers, but used by them on a day to day basis. Can you explain this to the entire City of Topeka?

Have any of you ever gone through the Citizens Academy to understand the various departments and what they do to ensure community safety and community involvement? Other than Mr. Padilla who from my understanding was a Topeka Police officer at one time, how many of you truly know what it is like to be a police officer? How many of you have undergone training and been put in situations of split second decisions for the safety of citizens as well as yourself?

I went through the Citizens Academy many years ago and I have seen many good programs within the Topeka Police Department that have since been decreased or completely dissolved. Bring back some of the programs that seemed to be beneficial in not only deterring crime, but having more officers out there for the community to interact with and discuss concerns of citizens.

I truly hope and pray that each and every council member will take the entire community into consideration before making decisions to change policies and defund the Topeka Police Department.

It saddens me and many others to know that the picture being painted in the media is that our City Council members, our City Mayor and our City Manager do not truly care what happens to this city. The police are here to enforce the laws that are put into place. And I pray that each and everyone of you who choose to decrease their ability to maintain order and protect the citizens as well as themselves and their families, with such items on your session as the "qualified immunity" understand that you are taking away the confidence of our law enforcement officers to uphold their oath to protect and serve.

Respectfully

--

Concerned Registered Voter & Citizen  
Cindy

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Addie Juedes <chattyaddie@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** I support our police department!

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

This message is to state my and my husbands support of our Topeka Police Department. They put their lives on the line every time they work a shift and their pay doesn't come close to what they deserve for the risk and now disrespect they are receiving. Just because there is a teacher who misuses their position or hurts a child doesn't mean we throw all of those in education out! There are those in politics that aren't honest and do terrible things, do we throw the whole system out? NO! Hold those accountable who need to be and teach everyone to respect, honor, and protect! While we do not LIVE in Topeka but right outside, my husband and I spend a majority of our work time in Topeka and do a lot of shopping, our son is cared for in Topeka, and more!! If we need to call on the TPD, because we need them, I don't want them having to call a supervisor to use the force needed to protect my family and others! If an officer is only supposed to be writing tickets and isn't allowed to carry a firearm and then happens upon someone who needs protected or someone attacks them because they know those who "may not need a firearm for their shift" is a sitting duck and our city has taken away what they need to protect, how is that helpful??? Do we want those who protect and serve to leave our city? Do we want those who pay taxes and are good citizens to want to move elsewhere because of what you have done to our law enforcement? They need to be held accountable just like EVERY person and ESPECIALLY those in leadership and power. Let's support, empower, keep accountable, and give them the tools needed to keep Topeka a great place to raise a family and work!

Thank you,  
Addie Juedes (and family)

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## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Brenda Younger  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** Governing Body  
**Cc:** Department Directors; City Clerk  
**Subject:** Aug 25 PC - L. Kaine Letter  
**Attachments:** Lauren Kaine Public Comment.pdf

Governing Body Members,

Attached is a letter delivered by Lauren Kaine.

Thank you.

Brenda Younger, M.M.C  
City Clerk, City of Topeka  
215 SE 7th St., Rm 166  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-368-3940  
[byounger@topeka.org](mailto:byounger@topeka.org)



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1182 SW Plass Ave  
Topeka, KS 66604  
August 25, 2020

Mayor De La Isla  
215 SE 7th  
Topeka, KS

Dear Sir or Madam:

I was planning to speak at tonight's City Council meeting but decided the agenda items, with all their complexities, I am not knowledgeable enough to address. What looms large over any and all consideration and formulation of police reforms and corrective policies is the organization Black Lives Matter. It is a subversive organization, self-identified as Marxist (communist) by definition, one hell-bent on creating chaos in/ tearing down the democratic republic of the United States. (Google the organization and read what THEY say about their organization.)

What I can speak to is the certain danger of giving the insidious organization BLM a foothold through imprudent reforms or new/ modified policies governing the Topeka police.

Not one individual I know disagrees with the slogan "black lives matter." No one I know disagrees with a citizen's right to "assemble PEACEABLY" and to "petition the government for a redress of grievances," a right guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The organization Black Lives Matters is all about lawlessness and ravaging: looting; shuttering and burning down businesses; and killing and injuring in real time across the nation in Seattle, Washington; Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon etc. We must not allow it to gain a foothold in Topeka.

Any parent or grandparent in Topeka who has the God-given instincts to protect their children and grandchildren from evil and harm surely will take a stand to protect them from BLM.

God hates lawlessness and He loves justice. How can the two work hand in hand in the BLM movement and be right in His sight?

In the Bible (Romans 13: 1-4) God admonishes us to be "subject to the governing authorities...that rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil..." He further says, "if you do evil, be afraid; for (the authority) does not BEAR THE SWORD in vain; for he is God's minister...to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

Defunding police; dismantling police; taking the "sword" out of their hands—BLM and their wrong-headed supporters and sympathizers, by intimidation and enlisting authorities in leveraging misguided policy, are engaged in a ruthless campaign to DESTROY the very fabric of our institutions and culture; and, most certainly, the rule of law and order.

Sincerely yours,  
Lauren Kaine

phone : 704 775 3564



## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Gale Wollenberg <gwollenberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Reform topeka? or reform the police?  
**Attachments:** Scan0002.pdf

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You really need to address the real issue, abusing the elderly home owners by enforcing the 2012 international property maintenance code.

The other real issue is that the city of topeka doesn't legally exist, see attachment.

A criminal enterprise known as

# The City of Topeka

A while ago this author visited the city clerk's office to check on some information I had heard that the city of Topeka had no charter and was unincorporated. I wanted to check on the non-existence of these documents myself.

It turns out that the document that is being passed off to the unsuspecting as a city charter is nothing more than the constitution and record of minutes for the old town company that has come to be called "The City of Topeka". It definitely is not a city charter.

This "town company" constitution document also contains other items that appear to be descriptions of various plots of ground around the area. Again, nothing that appeared to be legally binding.

Then, in asking to view the city of Topeka papers of incorporation, the clerk could not locate any papers of incorporation and she then told me that there are none.

She then showed me the record of Topeka "charter ordinances". I have personally examined the city charter ordinances of another city in Kansas, and the first several pages were of the city charter, which were then followed by the pages of charter ordinances. You cannot have charter ordinances or enforce them without a city charter.

The city charter is the document that authorizes and authenticates the "charter ordinances".

The city "papers of incorporation" are the instruments of authentication for the "governing body" of any city or town. They are proof of entitlement for the city to obtain state grants, federal grants, matching funds, and other "entitlements".

Without a city charter and without papers of incorporation, the collective body calling itself "The City of Topeka" is nothing more than a criminal enterprise and cannot legally collect fines or levy taxes from anyone. The collection of such by that body is a criminal act. Will the RICO act eventually catch up to this criminal enterprise?

**THE COMMITTEE TO RESTORE JUDICIAL PRUDENCE IN KANSAS**

## Brenda Younger

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**From:** Dawn BATTERY <davery710@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** 8 Can't Wait proposal meeting today

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am on the schedule to share comments regarding item 3B on the agenda this evening. I am worried about how crowded it might be. We will try to make it but if we see that is too crowded for our comfort level I would like these comments shared. If we can speak via zoom we would rather do that if it isn't too late.

We are concerned about the push for this meeting to happen now. We feel like this is a knee jerk reaction to the social climate around our country and has not been thought out in a way that builds trust in the transparency and full disclosure of our city government. It does not allow time for research or community involvement in the process of making this important decision.

My husband Rick and I talk extensively about this topic and we are proud of the Topeka Police Department for their community involvement and were happy with the mostly peaceful demonstrations that have taken place in Topeka recently. We believe this is a testament to the faith our citizens have in the police force here.

According to an email I received from a council member the law codes that they want to add are already guidelines followed by the TPD. If that is the case my argument will be that this proposal is too restrictive in its definitions and redundant, therefore, unnecessary.

We do believe some improvements can be made. We believe all training for the police, especially in relation to mental health is money well spent. We also believe that body cameras should be worn and turned on in every interaction the police have with the public and during all searches. A camera that is off should be considered tampering with evidence and any evidence found should be inadmissible and there should be disciplinary measures for the officer. We believe that "no knock warrants" during the night are dangerous for the police, suspects and innocent bystanders and should be discontinued. We think there needs to be an outside disciplinary board of multiple professionals that investigates all complaints, the police should not be policing themselves, checks and balances are important.

We do not support the passing of 8 Can't Wait due to its specific restrictive language and the redundancy of guidelines the TPD already follow. We are proud of TPD presence and the relationships we see them building in the community just don't see it as necessary.

Thank you for your time,  
Sincerely,  
Dawn and Rick BATTERY

Good evening, council.

My name is Shelby Fehrenbacher and I am a constituent in the 8<sup>th</sup> district.

I stand before you today to express both my support for unions and my dissatisfaction for qualified immunity for police officers simultaneously. If time allots, I will also address my concerns about the Independent Police Auditor and the chokehold ordinance put forth by Councilman Duncan.

One thing I feel needs to be made clear is that I, along with many I know advocating for abolishing qualified immunity here today, are NOT anti-union. Our desire is not to tear down the FOP and leave police officers without union protection.

Unions, as a whole, offer so many vital protections for those in any workforce. I stand behind ensuring that police officers in the City of Topeka get proper employment benefits, adequate work hours, good pay and an avenue to address complaints against them in a way that makes them feel heard. If you watch closely many of the same individuals speaking in favor of police reform today are the same individuals that have stood, both figuratively and literally, with and for unions across Topeka. So hear me clear when I say: we are not anti-union.

But NO OTHER union so readily gives their members a license to kill so much as the qualified immunity offered to police officers. Imagine a world where other workers could shoot their client for walking in the door Black and be protected. Would the people be in uproar then? Then why, as we sit here today, are police officers allotted a protection for the criminal act of killing without cause?

Lets talk about what it means to have qualified immunity. Qualified immunity applies when in a government official is in the beginning of a civil lawsuit. For those declaring that a police officer has violated their rights or the rights of their deceased loved one, it is often the first hurdle they have to jump in order to even get the facts of their case heard. It requires that the Plaintiff, or the one bringing the claim against the officer, prove that the officer has knowingly “violated clearly established statutory or constitutional rights”. You’ll hear people argue that is a persons rights were violated then this step should be easy to prove but thats not what the law requires. The law requires there to be a clear precedent or previous case in the same district court for the same conduct with the same or extremely similar facts. If the first time the court you’re in has heard a case like yours? You dont get to have a trial. If one small detail can be offered to differentiate the facts of your case from those of another previous case? You dont even get to tell a judge or jury the pain youve suffered to let them decide.

Qualified immunity is the bouncer at the doorway but rather than an assumption that you’re simply trying to come into the court to be heard he shields the officer who harmed you inside while you plead your case to even be able to enter.

You know what getting rid of qualified immunity WONT do?

It wont mean that just anybody for any reason can sue a police officer. The law protects all defendants of civil suits by ensuring that the person who brought the claim proves their case. A citizen would still need to show that the officer violated their rights through legal elements.

It wont allow for millions of frivolous lawsuits. Lawyers would still held to the same standards that ensure they are held accountable for bringing about lawsuits without real cause and the law surrounding what must be shown to plead a case would still exist.

It wont financially ruin good officers. As I said before, there are still so many aspects to a civil case to overcome. The justice system is designed to settle cases before they get to full trial and less than 1 percent of cases are ever paid out by an individual officer.

So what WILL ending qualified immunity do?

It will allow citizens their right to court. To step through the door and show the facts of their case to a judge or jury without being first stopped by the bouncer.

It will mean that police officers get the same rights that every other person defending a civil suit does. They don't get a license to kill simply because they are an officer. They are held accountable for the decisions they make. They will look better to their community. When an officer gets a chance to explain the facts as he saw them and fully address the concerns of the citizen before him, the whole community benefits from that transparency.

Its time to end qualified immunity so that people can have faith in our system to actually providing justice rather than turn a blind eye to injustice because the actor was a uniformed officer.

Speaking of faith in the system?

Why is the Independent Police Auditor an employee of the same City Manager that the Chief of Police and all under him are? The truth about transparency does not lie in the job description or the title that states it is all meant to be independent and apart from the police department. Transparency lies in what the community is able to see and believe with their own eyes based upon the facts.

The facts here are:

The Independent Police Auditor works under the City Manager.

The police department is in the same position under the City Manager.

The IPA is a single individual.

The IPA works closely with many officers.

The IPA reviewed 37 cases dealing with excessive force last quarter.

The IPA did not find a single case of misconduct in his reviews.

There is nothing about these facts that sit well with me or help me sleep at night.

We need a Citizens Review Board where selected citizens of this city can, unemployed and directed by the City Manager, evaluate cases and complaints to create a transparent approach to review.