

From: David Zack <dzack@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 6/5/2020 7:58:56 PM
To: Cody Kelly <codykel@gmail.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Police Reform

Cody,

Thank you for this. I'm actually with you on many of the points you raised. Sadly, in our country I don't think we will ever get to the point with an officer not carrying a gun on duty. What a great country we would be if we could. Our philosophies are pretty close otherwise. Enjoy your weekend and thanks again.

DZ

On Fri, Jun 5, 2020 at 7:29 PM Cody Kelly <codykel@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Chief Zack,

My name is Cody Kelly. I have been a resident of West Asheville since 2006. I lead rafting tours and work for the US Census Bureau currently. I am very concerned about the current state of affairs and I know you are as well. The death of George Floyd has broken so many hearts. It should not have happened just like so many other black lives. I just watched your video where you apologized for the conduct of your police officers that destroyed the medical tent the other night. I feel that you were sincere and I appreciate you acknowledging that it was wrong. I am writing to you to express my concerns and ask for your assistance in really reforming the APD. I am deeply disturbed with the militarization of our police force. This is a community. This is a magical wonderful place to live. Yes, we have crime but I generally feel safe in this town. I do not condone or approve of our police force having a military feel to them. I want our police officers to feel like a community steward - a support team. Do you know what I feel when I see an officer? I feel fear. My first thought is have I done anything wrong? Are they going to pull me over? And I am a white male! If I feel this, I cannot even begin to imagine the fear a black male must experience. This needs to change. It must change. Here are my thoughts on the change that I would like to see:

- Patrol officers do not need to carry a gun. Leave the gun in the car. Deescalate any potential situation through proper training. Any time a gun is in an officers hand, death is a possibility for the citizen. If in the extreme situation that an officer needs a gun, retreat and request assistance.
- End the militarization of our police. Repeal Section 1033. I do not want military weapons in my community. You do not need them to keep us safe.
- Ban choke holds and strangle holds. Unacceptable. Any officer that violates this must be fired immediately, criminally charged, and banned from ever working in law enforcement. Require officers to exhaust all other alternatives, including non-force and less lethal force options, prior to resorting to deadly force.
- Decriminalize or de-prioritize enforcement of low-level offenses, including drug possession, public intoxication, loitering, jaywalking, disorderly conduct and prostitution.
- Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor.
- Ban shooting at moving vehicles.
- Require officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians.

- End of SWAT team tactics with civil protest. I am sickened watching live feeds at night this week of tear gas being sprayed on our community. I understand that you have a duty to prevent looting and damage to property but that does not override your duty to protect citizens. Spray paint and windows can be fixed. Shooting tear gas and rubber bullets at civilians is not warranted. Stop with the riot gear. People are upset and are expressing it. Your officers do not need riot gear to handle a water bottle being thrown at them.
- Bail Reform: It is unjust that poor people have to sit in jail while folks with access to \$ can leave.

Here is a link to an organization that is helping to address these issues: <https://8cantwait.org> and <https://www.joincampaignzero.org>.

Chief Zack, I really hope you will listen to folks like me. I would welcome a chance at having a dialogue and seeing our police force become a resource for the community and not a source of fear and domination. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
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