



Dear Members of the Community:

Over the past couple weeks, I have heard a small organized group call for a misguided approach that will not bring forth the positive change that we all seek.

Taking resources away will not bring continued improvements; it will negatively impact our neighborhoods and unravel all the hard work that has been done. Our officers have worked tirelessly to build relationships and enhance our partnerships. Together, we have made this city safer and better. Now more than ever, police should be connecting with the community and providing assistance and protection to those in need.

As for the city leaders that continue to show leadership and courage by continuing to support this department in the face of a very small but vocal group of detractors, your backing and acknowledgement of all the great ways we continue to serve this city is recognized and so greatly appreciated.

I am proud of the men and women of the Worcester Police Department for continuing to serve with dignity and honor while being physically assaulted and having their cruisers vandalized.

We have always looked critically at our policies, procedures and training, and will continue to do so. Stereotypical statements based on anecdotes serve no purpose other than to alienate those who work hard each day, every day to make Worcester a better place to live and work. My fear is that if this rhetoric continues it will inhibit or obstruct the progress toward achieving our mission and it may make the police less effective in the community.

I have proven over my tenure that I am willing to listen. I believe in the power of constructive dialogue and I would like to be at the table for discussions. I know that improvements can be made in some areas to ensure future success and I feel that our department can lead the way for others to follow.

Sir Robert Peel, the founder of Modern Policing said "The Police are the Public; the Public are the Police". We know that our department cannot effectively do our job without the help and support of our community.

It is my hope that together we can make our city safer, stronger and better. Together.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Sargent
Chief of Police



Dear Members of the Community:

Over the past couple weeks, we have heard a small organized group of **police officials and their supporters** call for a misguided approach **to public safety** that will not bring forth the positive change that we all seek.

Taking resources away **from public health, neighborhood-based community development, schools, youth services to further bloat the police budget** will not bring continued improvements; it will negatively impact our neighborhoods and unravel all the hard work that has been done. Our **community groups** have worked tirelessly to build relationships and enhance our partnerships. Together, we have made this city safer and better. Now more than ever, police should be connecting with the community and providing assistance and protection to those in need.

As for the city **residents** that continue to show leadership and courage by continuing to support **the Movement for Black Lives** in the face of a very small but vocal group of detractors, your backing and acknowledgment of all the great ways we continue to serve **each other** is recognized and so greatly appreciated.

We are proud of the people of Worcester for continuing to **survive** with dignity and honor while being physically assaulted and having their **civil rights** vandalized.

We have always looked critically at **police** policies, procedures and training, and will continue to do so. Stereotypical statements based on anecdotes serve no purpose other than to alienate those who work hard each day, every day to make Worcester a better place to live and work. Our fear is that if this rhetoric continues it will inhibit or obstruct the progress toward achieving our mission and it may make the police **more disruptive** in the community.

The police must prove their willingness to listen **to the entire community**. We believe in the power of constructive dialogue and we would like to be at the table for discussions. We know that improvements can be made in **many** areas to ensure future success and we feel that our **community organizations** can lead the way for others to follow.

Sir Robert Peel, the founder of Modern Policing said "The Police are the Public; the Public are the Police". We know that **police** cannot effectively do **all that the job requires in ways that truly** help and support our community.

It is our hope that together we can make our city safer, stronger and better. Together.

Sincerely,

Defund WPD