

Harward, Sonya

From: Piagentini, Anthony B.
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Metro Council Members and LAs
Subject: FW: Information
Attachments: Councilman Piagentini - Sept 2020.pdf

Dear Metro Council Colleagues,

Please see the attached letter from the Chief of Middletown PD. For those who are unaware, I have a \$10,000 NDF that will come to a vote on the floor next Thursday (<http://louisville.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=6859ca00-3a60-4611-8f9a-33b8ba8df1e3.pdf>). I committed to those in committee that I would get more information as to why this equipment was needed (given I am only funding half and Middletown is funding the other half) from Middletown PD. Further, I have learned the LMPD 8th Division is largely not doing any work in Middletown (other than backup) and the truth of the matter is there have been circumstances recently where Middletown PD was called on to help LMPD to cover civil unrest although they don't have the equipment to properly do that.

They are an accredited police department similar to LMPD, they are all former LMPD officers, they have gone so far to start doing investigative work and that along with the thousands of calls and over 1,000 reports they have handled have significantly allowed LMPD to redeploy needed personnel to other areas of the 8th Division or to other areas of the city as needed.

I will have more information before Thursday showing that this NDF has strong precedent. I will have examples of us buying equipment for other taxing districts for one time equipment purchases to ensure everyone is clear that these are not out of the norm and this was approved without problem by the County Attorney.

If anyone has any additional questions or is concerned in any way with this NDF, please contact me as soon as possible so I can allay those concerns before Thursday.

Thank you,
AP



Anthony Piagentini | Metro Councilman
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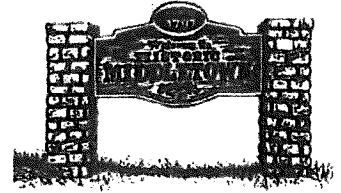


Middletown Police Department

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CITY OF MIDDLETOWN



Robert Herman, Chief

J. Byron Chapman, Mayor

September 10, 2020

Anthony Piagentini
Councilman - District 19
601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Councilman Piagentini,

Thank you for your generous support of the Middletown Police Department regarding our officer safety equipment. In today's climate of potential social unrest, our officers need to have the necessary equipment to respond to incidents involving those who wish to do harm to public and private property as well as to the residents and visitors to our cities. Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) has the necessary manpower and equipment to respond to such emergency calls, however, those calls can escalate quickly and additional resources could be needed. Those additional resources could be deployed anywhere in the City of Louisville, and we, the suburban police departments, are those additional resources. It has been a long standing practice that the suburban police departments respond and assist LMPD whenever the need arises. This has been evident on several occasions, most recently on August 25, 2020 "Good Tuesday." The suburban cities were contacted by LMPD command to participate in the planning and response to potential mass gatherings in an attempt to disrupt the interstate systems. The cities of St. Matthews, Jeffersontown and Middletown agreed to handle any issues that may occur on I-64, this led to our issue of MPD not having the basic crowd control equipment and safety gear. Councilman Piagentini, your eager assistance has allowed us to purchase basic officer safety equipment such as shields, gas masks, helmets, batons and pepperspray.

This basic equipment will allow our officers to safely and effectively respond to calls for assistance from LMPD or any other suburban city should the need arise. We all know that civil unrest knows no boundaries, which is why we all need to be prepared with standardized, compatible safety equipment to respond to such incidents. The Middletown Police Department is a Kentucky Chiefs of Police accredited agency, such as LMPD, has progressive policies similar to LMPD, and our officers are trained in crowd control tactics by LMPD. All our officers are former LMPD officers and are familiar with the command structure and response guidelines set forth by LMPD.

We currently have a great working relationship with Major Brown and the 8th Division. Since our inception, we have been able to take the policing load off the 8th Division to free their resources up to handle other areas needing attention. In 2019, we responded to over 3500 calls for

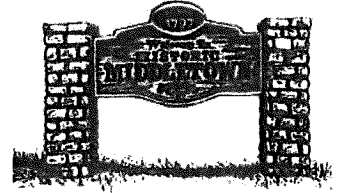


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service and took 690 reports in the City of Middletown, thus allowing LMPD resources to be redeployed to other areas within the 8th Division. During the first 8 months of 2020, Middletown Police has responded to almost 3000 calls for service and took 560 reports. Those reports almost evenly divided between crime incidents and accidents. This has led us to develop our own detective unit to investigate those crime incidents. Our detectives work hand in hand with LMPD detectives to seek out, develop investigations, and prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

I look forward to continuing to be a dependable partner with the City of Louisville and LMPD, providing professional and progressive police response to the citizens of Louisville Metro and Middletown. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have and again thank you and the Metro Council for assisting us as we continue to grow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Herman'.

Robert Herman
Chief of Police