

It is my understanding the Allentown City Council is refusing to place the AHRC's proposed police reform resolution on the Council agenda for discussion.

I'm wondering how that could be given this time of social upheaval. The moment we're in begs for a discussion about effective ways to have a safe community. This is the time to take a fresh look at the role of police within our communities. This is most definitely the time to discuss the importance of police accountability.

As my local government representative, I implore you to place their resolution on your agenda. Let's talk.

My preferences or recommendations.

1. The City of Allentown should take the lead on being known as a city that has economic mobility for all. Make "City Without Limits" mean something. Economic disparity is by design, not by accident. It is not solely about individual effort, as some would like to believe. There is an uneven playing field, and the outcomes within our systems (education, employment, income, home ownership, criminal justice) reflect the racial disparity that is baked into our systems. Economic equity improves the quality of life of residents, resulting in a reduction in violence.
2. Hire a consultant team to evaluate the culture of the Allentown Police Department. Is it welcoming? Is it pro-equity? What are the attitudes about race? How do these attitudes impact performance and relationships with residents? The evaluation should include feedback from current police staff, retired Black and Latinx police staff, and residents. The other night I called the Allentown Police desk (610 437-7753). The voice on the other end - the one going through the menu options, was an upbeat white female sounding voice. Her voice was jarring to me - in a city that is over 60% Black African Heritage and Latinx, I would expect to hear a different sounding voice. And then on top of that, there was no option for Spanish. Almost every customer service number I call for businesses such as phone or cable, has a Spanish option. Even the local grocery self-check screens have a English or Spanish option! But there is no Spanish speaker option for the APD. With our numbers? With their interface with the public? An evaluation will reveal the other ways APD fails to be inclusive and welcoming.
3. Explore police reform. Step back and look at everything to include: What do we want from police? Are the police responding to calls that should be handled by other professionals? Are the police trained to understand and manage their implicit biases? Are the department policies just (fair) and protecting both police and the public? (e.g. the 8 Can't Wait).
4. Of course an analysis of the APD workforce. To what extent is the workforce representative of the community? And if there is a gap, what is the recruitment and selection plan to have a workforce that reflects the residents they serve? And again, what is the plan for all officers to accept, respect and celebrate diversity amongst themselves as well as within the community?

Phyllis Alexander

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Dear Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Kieva Mark, and I am a student at Muhlenberg College (2400 W. Chew St.). I am writing to you in the hopes that the issue of defunding the police be brought up at the next council meeting. I want to extend my support of the reallocation of a portion of the police budget to at risk members of the community and other community support measures, such as a mental health support committee, support for the homeless community, and trauma intervention specialists to assist in cases of domestic violence. With the

funding currently given to the police, the community could create support networks outside of this institution which asks too much of its officers.

Please consider this important issue at the next meeting of the council.

Best,  
Kieva Mark

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the egregious use of force demonstrated by the Allentown Police Department in front of St Luke's Hospital at around 6pm Saturday. In the video widely circulating around social media, it is painfully obvious that the APD's use of force in this scenario was excessive and dangerous. Use of force like that evidenced in the video is disproportionately used against Black people and other people of color. Allentown and other Lehigh Valley residents have been demanding action towards defunding and reforming the police and disrupting the system of racist law enforcement for nearly two months now and it is clear that these cries continue to fall on deaf ears. Rest assured that the people of Allentown are not going anywhere and we will not stop disrupting the peace in this city until there has been real change.

Thank you,  
Anna Tjeltveit

This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday.

Dear City Council,

My name is Alison Cummins, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am appalled at the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy by the APD, we saw excessive force used against a citizen. It is clear that these policies are not working and that the officers are not taking them seriously enough. I'm writing to encourage you to defund the police and invest in the Allentown community. What good is a police force that will not adhere to its own policies and continuously put citizens, particularly Black citizens, in harm's way? The only way to fix this problem is to divest in policing and invest in communities; I urge you to act now before we see more destruction--and even death--in the city of Allentown at the hands of police and politician complacency.

Sincerely,  
Alison Cummins

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

At the request of my county chairman, I'm attaching this correspondence for the floor both in the body of this email (see below my signature block) as well as in PDF format. Please email me with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

VR,

Lola Rosa  
Secretary, Veterans Party of Lehigh County

July 12, 2020

City Council Chambers  
Allentown City Hall  
641 South 10th Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

ATTN: Courtesy of the Floor

To the distinguished members of Allentown's City Council,

Given the tenuous nature of the social climate in Allentown, I will be keeping my remarks succinct since I am sure there will be many other comments for the floor to be discussed tonight. However, recent events have made apparent the most pressing of those issues, that being the rights and responsibilities of protestors as well as the rights and responsibilities of those not involved in protests, or more precisely, those who are simply "there" where and when protests occur.

This letter is not meant to be a social critique of any kind; quite the contrary. While I have my reservations about the motives of ideological entities like BLM—reservations which should not be misconstrued as invalidating the simple, and self-evident message that black lives matter—my sole purpose today is to enquire as to the council's position regarding issues of safety for all parties involved in legitimate protest, and those surrounding said protest. One need only point to the death of Seattle's Summer Taylor (and subsequently the fate Dawit Kalete), and the incident surrounding the defense of Missouri's Mark and Patricia McCloskey's home to see the two sides of this particular issue manifest in reality, and, given the event from this week where an Allentown police officer placed a knee on the head of a detainee, these realities can be assumed to set themselves upon the Lehigh Valley as well.

My question for the council is simple: how will we, as a city, make sure that the right to assemble and protest peacefully as a people will be upheld so that incidents like those in Seattle do not occur, while simultaneously protecting the right and safety of private residencies—rights protected under Pennsylvania Title 18, statutes 505 and 507 i.e. the "Castle Doctrine"? In both instances listed above, the crimes of manslaughter, assault (on the part of Kalete and the McCloskys), and criminal trespass (on the part of the protestors) *could* have been avoided had the protestors in question been acting responsibly, which is to say not standing in the middle of a public roadway in the middle of the night, dressed in black, and not committing a defiant trespassing offense (as per Section 3503 of the Statutes of Pennsylvania), thus forcing the residents of said location to defend their property from a crowd with indeterminate, and thus threatening intentions. What steps does the council envision to ensure that protesters are allowed to peaceably protest in our otherwise admirable city without endangering themselves, or others?

Thank you for your time, and consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

//SIGNED//

Ryan Wasser, County Chairman

Mellisa Felix

A Black man in allentown was held down with an elbow/knee to his neck by the police yesterday. Arrest the police officer who did it and the accomplices.

Dear City Council,

My name is Kyra Hickey and my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am distraught by the aggression used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the

Use of Force Policy enacted by the APD, there was excessive force employed against a citizen. Clearly, these policies are insufficient and the officers are not acting in accordance with them. I am writing to demand that the city council defund the police and invest in the Allentown community. What use is a police force that does not abide by its own policies and repeatedly put its citizens, particularly Black and Brown citizens, in danger? The only solution to this problem is to divest in policing and invest in communities; I urge you to act now before we witness more devastation - and even death - in the city of Allentown at the hands of police and politician complacency.

Sincerely,  
Kyra Hickey

This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this Wednesday.

Dear City Council,

My name is Desire Suarez and my address is 2400 Chew St Allentown, PA. I am writing to demand accountability of the Allentown Police Department for their use of excessive and potentially deadly force. The kneeling of an officer onto a handcuffed man's neck, George Floyd, is what sparked the revolution the nation is going through today, and also what took Floyd's life in 8 long minutes. To see this situation be replicated in a town I call home does not sit right with me, and I know it does not for all of my peers and neighbours. Police should be equipped to diffuse tense situations without the use of strong force. But they are not. Because of this, that is why we are calling for them to be defunded. The extensive funding that goes into the police force could easily be directed elsewhere to ensure the support and growth of the Allentown community. The funds could be distributed instead to schooling and education, environmental issues, and quite literally---any other place that genuinely needs it. Police departments all over the nation have been abusing their power for far too long and we urge Allentown to be a part of the change in a long overdue reinvention of this broken system. We need to protect our Black citizens just as we do our White ones. Black lives matter.

Sincerely,  
Desire Suarez

City Council,

My name is Cindy Funes and my address is 2400 W Chew Street. After seeing what occurred on July 11th outside of St. Luke's hospital and the unnecessary force used against a man, I must ask what message are you sending? Allentown has a large black and brown population, so what are you telling them by letting the police officers that used this type of force go unpunished? It's a serious question. What message are you sending to the black and brown children of the community? I ask you to strongly consider defunding the Allentown Police Department as it is clear that they have too much funds and time on their hands as for THREE officers felt they were all needed to push a man into the ground. One of them even felt the need to put his knee on this mans neck and head. I demand that you take action against these police officers and that justice is served. Defund the Allentown Police Department.

Regards,

Cindy Funes

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Sincerely,  
Cindy Funes

This email is to be read at the city Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday.

Dear City Council,

My name is Sydney Baron. I am a student at Muhlenberg College and a registered voter in PA. I reside at 2400 W Chew St. I'm writing today to express the importance of defunding the Allentown Police Department. One June 11th, mere days after Allentown's new use of force policy was put in place, video footage was released showing an APD officer with his knee to the neck of a man outside St. Luke's hospital, Sacred Heart campus. I don't know what further evidence you may need that the passage of new regulations and reforms is not going to change the pandemic of police brutality and racism that this country is facing. As a citizen of Allentown and a civil rights activist, I demand that the names of the officers involved in this incident be released to the public. I demand that the body camera and security footage of the incident be released to the public. Most importantly, **I demand that you immediately begin removing funds from the Allentown Police Department.** These funds should be reallocated to programs including but not limited to; mental health services, substance abuse treatment, education and affordable housing. This is critical to the safety of Allentown's Black and Brown communities and the strength of the community as a whole.

Sincerely,  
Sydney Baron

Dear City Council,

My name is Nate Stratton, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. Personally, I am taken aback by the lack of professionalism among the Allentown Police Department. Despite their inordinate amount of funding, they have consistently failed at protecting Allentown citizens. I believe it is long overdue that the city takes the appropriate actions to defund the APD. Their over 40 million dollars worth of annual funding has only become part of the problem.

Signed,

Nate Stratton

**HOLD THIS OFFICER ACCOUNTABLE**

<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/07/12/video-of-allentown-police-officer-putting-his-knee-on-mans-neck-during-arrest-prompts-protests/?fbclid=IwAR3aDbyVFM7F5AzRmZ2z7bGK7r IPgno9LciLQUiY5ISVKeYXG8NRYQmM40>

~Suzanne Brown~

My name is Katie Weeks and I am a constituent from Fogelsville, PA ZIP code 18051.

I am disgusted and disappointed to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage Release the names of the officers Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support reforming our police and justice system, by acknowledging the necessity of Black Lives Matter.

Thank you for your time,  
Katie Weeks

Dear Allentown City Council,

My name is Alexander Setlow. My address is 2400 W Chew St. I am disgusted at the obvious example of police brutality that occurred in Allentown and how there has been no action taken to fire and arrest the officer who knelt on the neck of an Allentown resident on July 11th outside of St. Luke's Hospital. The policy you implemented has been proven to be ineffective and has not been enough action on your part, and I demand you defund the Allentown police department and redistribute the money to the Allentown community. I strongly suggest using the money to fund public schools and invest in better housing for black and brown communities in Allentown, and prove you actually care about their lives.

Dear Allentown City Council,

This email is to be read at the City Council Meeting on 7/15.

My name is Kyra Dates, and my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am disgusted by the use of force during the arrest of an Allentown citizen on July 11th. This is unacceptable, and it proves that the APD's newly released "use of force policy" does not actually serve as tangible, effective safety measures for Allentown citizens. These "reforms" in policy do not make real change, and your citizens' lives are still being put at risk by the police. The solution to Police brutality and excessive force is not policy reforms, but to defund the Allentown Police Department and invest in the Allentown Community. As a citizen of Allentown, I urge you--demand you--to defund the police. This city's citizens are currently being put at risk by the very people you claim serve to protect them; you have the power to fix this by defunding the police and investing in the Allentown Community.

Sincerely,  
Kyra Dates

I just saw the video of what seemed to be pretty excessive force outside the hospital. Why was that necessary? Was there no other way that guy could be held down? Did that officer need to put a knee on that guy's neck? I'm a PA resident (Pittsburgh) and really like to see our state do better. Can you please enroll your force in deescalation training, crisis training and training that focuses on lethal forms of restraint? This is not ok.  
Caldwell Linker  
15201

Dear City Council,

My name is Cameron Eaton; my address is 2400 West Chew Street. After the Allentown Police Department released its new Use of Force Policy prohibiting "the use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (chokeholds)" an officer exhibited the same use of force that killed George Floyd on an

Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. This blatant disregard of policy is telling of the Allentown Police Department's disingenuous attempt at appeasing the public with no intention of enacting real change. I demand the release of body camera footage immediately. I demand a statement from the mayor, City Council, and chief of police about this violent arrest. I demand that the City Council consider the reallocation of funds from the Allentown Police Department to other community resources such as housing, education, mental health counseling, and substance abuse treatment. I demand that the officer who committed this atrocity be permanently removed from the Allentown Police Department. We need more than an investigation. We need real change.

Sincerely,  
Cameron Eaton

Dear Allentown City Council,

My name is Philippa Edstrand-Hearn and I am a resident of Allentown, my address is 2400 Chew Street. I am enraged to learn of the incident of police brutality on 11th July and have seen the video of a police officer putting his knee on a handcuffed civilian. Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death" I am calling for an unbiased, just investigation to the incident, where the police officer is held responsible for his actions. This was an abuse of power and a violation of human rights, and the city of Allentown has a duty to address this. I demand that the local officials defund the Allentown police and invest in the community.

Thank you for your time,

Philippa Edstrand-Hearn

My name is Alex Goldman and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104. I am enraged and horrified to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the traumatic video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. How can you watch that video and not recognize the clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights? I am DEMANDING that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the COMMUNITY. Your job is to serve the people. Do it.

Thank you for your time,  
Alex Goldman

Dear City Council,

My name is Florence Arnold and I am a constituent from Allentown, 18104. I am horrified and disgusted to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage

2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

These demands are the least of what your department can do. It has become increasingly clear the so-called bias-training and reformation called for and supposed demonstrated is no longer enough nor satisfactory.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support and implement these four demands.

Thank you for your time,  
Florence Arnold

My name is Kelly McCoy, and I am a constituent from Easton, ZIP code 18045. While I am not a resident of Allentown, I believe everyone in the Lehigh Valley and beyond deserves to live in a world free from police violence.

I am appalled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. -Release body camera and security footage
2. -Release the names of the officers
3. -Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. -DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community (increased access to mental health services, extracurricular programs for students, food banks and shelters, etc.)

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this dangerous and inhumane behavior and to strongly support compassionate, community-focused alternatives to our current policing structure.

Thank you for your time,  
Kelly McCoy

My name is Samantha, and I'm a constituent from Slatington. I am appalled to learn of the incident that occurred in Allentown on July 11th. I have chosen to view the video that is now circulating online. The video shows a civilian on the ground, being held by three officers, one of which uses their elbow then their knee to press the civilian's head into the pavement. Appalled does not even truly explain the feelings of anger and disgust I am experiencing. What this officer did was a clear violation of the use of force policy and of human rights.

I am demanding that local officials release the body camera and security camera footage, release the names of the officers in question, ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation, and the Allentown Police Department's budget be redistributed to investments in the community.

I love our city. But now the nation, and the world, know that we, too, are not an exception to police brutality. If you love our city too, you will fight for it's people. I urge the city council to stand up against racism and police brutality, and to actively fight for the lives of the black and brown communities in Allentown.

This is a public statement to be read at the city council meeting on 7/15.

Dear City Council,



My name is Hannah Warnick, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104. My Address is 2400 Chew Street. I was appalled to hear about the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I've watched the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was clearly a harmful violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

We are in the midst of a national reckoning with racism and police violence and I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing other victims of violence and police brutality George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated upon seeing this video, that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racialized violence and abuses of power and to strongly support the defunding of the Allentown Police Department as well as the reinvestment of that money into the community. This reallocation of funds is sure to have a positive impact on the citizens of Allentown.

Thank you for your time,

Hannah Warnick

This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday

Dear City Council,

My name is Jack Slomin, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am deeply disturbed by the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy by the Allentown Police Department, we witnessed excessive force being used against a citizen. It is clear that these policies are not working and your police force is either against change or incapable of properly protecting ALL citizens to the best of their ability. I am writing to encourage you to defund the police department and use these funds to support the growth of the Allentown community. If a police force is not held accountable, and will not adhere to its own policies, while continuously putting citizens, particularly Black citizens, in harm's way. This blatant racism and lack of empathy for one's community will continue to divide the citizens of Allentown. I am urging the City Council to properly and seriously reexamine the funding of the Allentown police force. The only way to improve the ongoing issues of police violence and racism in this city is the invest in YOUR communities. I call upon you to do the right thing and take steps towards a better community and a better city of Allentown. This divide and destruction in the city of Allentown is at the hands of the police and the political complacency. I urge you, be on the right side of history.

Sincerely,  
Jack

Dear City Council,

My name is Amanda Clark and my address is 2400 W Chew Street, Allentown, PA. After hearing of the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th, I felt compelled to

reach out to you and share mine and others distress. We call upon those with the power to shape policy in Allentown to deeply consider your responsibility to citizens, particularly those of color who are disproportionately affected by police violence and other symptoms of systemic racism. We call on you to divest in policing and invest in communities, with the hope of healing the hurt and pain that has been caused by systemic racism and preventing further violence in the future. This is the time to act. Now, in the face of the failure to protect a citizen in the process of arrest, is the time to make a change for the betterment of the entire community of Allentown.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Clark

This message is to be read aloud at the Allentown City Council meeting on 7/15:

My name is Chloe Buerghenthal, a resident at 423 Leh St in Allentown. I am disgusted to have seen the video of the latest incident of police brutality on July 11th in front of Saint Lukes Hospital. It is clear that a change of force policy is ineffective, as this incident came nearly a week after APD released a policy against using this kind of force.

I am asking you to defund the Allentown police and instead invest in the Allentown community. How many more Black and brown bodies must be taken away and assaulted before the change is enacted? I urge you to be on the right side of history at this moment and protect the community you are here to serve.

Thank you.  
Chloe Buerghenthal

To the Allentown City Council -

My name is Brooke Weber. I currently live in York, PA, but I spent the last four years of my life living at 2400 W Chew Street in Allentown, PA. The following should be read aloud at the City Council Meeting on July 15.

I am saddened and horrified to have seen the video of the incident in which a police officer appears to have used excessive force to arrest an Allentown resident in front of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11. I was once encouraged by the fact that the Allentown Police Department released their Use of Force Policy, but this action defies all that that policy claims to establish.

Local officials must release body camera and security footage of this incident, carry out a full investigation, and suspend the officers involved whilst the investigation is being carried out. I also implore you to consider re-distributing some of the monetary resources currently allotted to the police department back into the Allentown community. I love Allentown so much - it fostered me during a formative and wonderful period in my life. Please invest in the communities that make your city so diverse and beautiful.

According to attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." Please take steps to ensure that use of force like this never occurs again.

Thank you for your time,  
Brooke Weber

My name is Alegra Secor , and I am a Student from Muhlenberg College in Allentown

I am furious to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

5. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community  
Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racism and oppression  
Thank you for your time,  
Alegra Secor

This email is meant to be read at the City Council meeting this Wednesday.

City Council,

My name is Elena Yingling and my address is 2400 W Chew St. I am sickened by the force and lack of empathy used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St Luke's Hospital on July 11th. I support the Use of Force Policy released by the APD, but it is clearly not enough and the officers are not taking it seriously. I am writing to encourage you to defund the police department and invest in the Allentown community instead. I love this city and want to see that every resident and visitor feels safe and welcome. Act now before we see further destruction.

Sincerely,  
Elena Yingling

My name is Lisa Stein, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104.

I am profoundly upset to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have heard members of the Allentown City Council say that what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis would never happen in Allentown. Well, they were wrong. It happened.

I am demanding that local officials take the following 6 actions:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa Stein

Hello,

My name is Gwen Dietrich and I am a resident of New Tripoli, Pennsylvania. I am reaching out to you all today regarding the recent video of an APD officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian.

This incident was a clear violation of APD's Use of Force Policy and human rights.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is currently representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor started that this was, "the same kind of arrest that lead to George Floyd's death."

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body cam and security footage

2. Release the names of all officers involved
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
5. Defund the Allentown Police Department and invest into the community

I am urging all to stand against police brutality and racism and to strongly support the defunding of the APD and investment of more funds in Black and POC communities.

Thank you for your time,  
Gwen Dietrich

To the Allentown City Council,

My name is Janvi Madhani. I am a constituent of Allentown, PA.  
My address is 1619 Penn's Crossing, Allentown, PA. 18104

In light of the recent event of police brutality within our own city, where an officer placed his knee on a man's neck using dangerously violent force, I ask that this officer, first and foremost, be terminated, effective immediately. The victim of this horrifying aggression may or may not have been Black, but when officers of the law, commissioned to protect us, to uphold the great values of justice and truth, fail Black lives, they fail all of us. Murder, even committed by officers with seeming impunity, is not just. Incarceration of innocent lives is not just. Racially charged mass incarceration is not just. Over-policing of Black and Latinx neighborhoods is not just. It is not justice the police are upholding, it is authority.

I demand you reexamine the definition of justice. I demand that you defund the police. I demand that you invest instead in building an infrastructure where trained specialists and unarmed de-escalation professionals are called in instead of the police for non-violent intervention methods. I demand that you invest in the community in the forms of education and mental health resources. I demand that you establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

I remind you that the institution of slavery and the control of minorities were two of the most formidable features of American society shaping early policing. Thus, whether or not you agree with the current status of racial equality in today's policing strategies, it remains a fact that the police in the United States have an inherently racist origin. This racism has been propagated over decades through the prison industrial complex and has reared its ugly head daily in the lives of BIPOC people. Today, you are faced with a reckoning because for centuries they have endured this violence singularly; their voices silenced and oppressed. Today, they have allies.

And we will be relentless.

I promise you, that my vote, and millions of others' votes will be showing up to the polls and we will vote for the changes society needs. I hope to find you on the right side of this change.

Best,  
Janvi Madhani

My name is Katharine Henry, and I am a constituent from Emmaus, ZIP code 18049.  
I am saddened and angry to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.  
I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racism and police brutality and to strongly support Black Lives Matter. Because they do, always, not just when filmed.

Thank you for your time,  
Katharine Henry

My name is Madelyn Kohler, and I am a constituent from Allentown, Pennsylvania 18106.

I am unsettled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police Brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against the systematic injustices deeply rooted in America's police force and to strongly support the movement to bring justice to the POC community that have suffered extensively at the hands of systematic racism.

Thank you for your time,  
Madelyn Kohler

My name is Tessa Fritz and I am a constituent from Emmaus, ZIP code 18049.

I am very upset, frustrated, and saddened to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Thank you for your time,  
Tessa Fritz

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Lili Daskais, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA 18104.

I am outraged to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against the officers and to strongly support Black Lives Matter.

Thank you for your time,  
Lili Daskais

My name is Jenna Teague, and I am a constituent from Fountain Hill, PA.

I am infuriated to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. There are no circumstances that warrant such violent and lethal force, especially since this incident occurred in front of a hospital where there are several different resources for restraint. I know this from several years of working in an inpatient acute behavioral health unit. I have had patients brought in by police, from prisons, and have NEVER once had to put my knee in or anywhere around a person's neck in order to properly and safely restrain them. How appalling that the very people that are intended to "protect and serve" our citizens aren't able to do the same.

Regarding the incident from July 11th, around 6:40pm outside of St. Luke's Hospital on the 400 block of W Chew St., I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage from the officers on site
2. Release the name and badge number of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased EXTERNAL investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Until there is justice, there will be no peace in our community.

Kind regards,  
Jenna

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Lauren, and I am a constituent from Gilbertsville, PA ZIP code 19525.

I am disgusted to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. - Release body camera and security footage
2. - Release the names of the officers
3. - Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. - Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. - Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. - DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality, and to strongly support the BIPOC community of Allentown and their allies, and their basic human rights.

Thank you for your time,  
Lauren Bergen

Dear Michael Hanlon,

My name is Jessie Kuehne, and my address is 2400 W Chew Street.

I am appalled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I saw the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage

Release the names of the officers

Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation

Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and excessive force and to strongly support the defunding of the Allentown Police Department.

Thank you for your time,  
Jessie Kuehne

My name is Heather Harlen. I have been a teacher in the Allentown School District since 2003 and although I do not live in Allentown, I have invested most of my professional life here. I care deeply about the community, especially my students, who are disproportionately affected by police violence and the school to prison pipeline.

I am disappointed and angered to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage

Release the names of the officers

Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation

Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against excessive use of force and to strongly support the demands I listed above.

Sincerely,

Heather Harlen, Building 21 English Teacher, Allentown School District  
554 Seem Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049

My name is Heather Harlen. I have been a teacher in the Allentown School District since 2003 and although I do not live in Allentown, I have invested most of my professional life here. I care deeply about the community, especially my students, who are disproportionately affected by police violence and the school to prison pipeline.

I am disappointed and angered to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage

Release the names of the officers

Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation

Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community



Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against excessive use of force and to strongly support the demands I listed above.

Sincerely,

Heather Harlen, Building 21 English Teacher, Allentown School District  
554 Seem Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049

My name is Joshua Rubin and I am a constituent from Lafayette Hill, PA 19444. I am horrified to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. This incident happened after Allentown PD released their use of force policy which states that “Use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (choke holds) is prohibited.”

<https://www.allentownpa.gov/Portals/0/files/Police/2020%20Use%20of%20Force%20policy.pdf?ver=2020-07-02-160002-347>

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage Release the names of the officers

Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation

Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support defunding the police and holding those accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your time,

Joshua Rubin

Kyle M

I am a citizen of Lansdale, PA. Zip code 19446.

I am enraged to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

- Release body camera and security footage
- Release the names of the officers
- Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
- Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
- Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
- DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to

stand against this behavior and to strongly support not only the Black Lives Matter movement, but your own community.

Thank you for your time.

Dear Allentown City Council Members,

My name is Rachel Sutton, and I am a constituent from Easton, PA, 18045. I work in Allentown for United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

I am disgusted to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown, which happened this past weekend on Saturday (July 11<sup>th</sup>). I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. As a reminder, on July 2, the police department released its use of force policy, which specifically bans choke holds and neck restraints like the one seen in the video.

Ella Kate

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this **was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.”** I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality, and stand in support of holding the Allentown Police Department accountable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,  
Rachel

This morning when I woke up to the news, I was appalled but unsurprised. The use of force by an Allentown police officer against an unarmed civilian is a cruel and dangerous abuse of authority. Incidents like this cannot continue any longer. I along with many other residents of PA demand that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

My name is Kathleen Donohoe, and I am a citizen of the Lehigh Valley reaching out regarding the horrific incident between an Allentown police officer and a Black man in crisis on Saturday evening.

I am absolutely disgusted by the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this officer and to strongly support the nationwide mission to rid of these violent offenders, defund police departments, and invest in community resources to create a community of successful citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Kathleen Donohoe

Dear Allentown City Council and Mayor O'Connell,

My name is Cassidy Svercauski and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104.

I am disgusted and hurt to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is adjust and unbiased investigation
4. Reallocate Allentown police funds and invest in the community
5. Require more continuing education for police officers

Respectfully,

Cassidy Svercauski

Dear Allentown City Council,

My name is Hannah Turner, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, ZIP code 18104.

I am horrified to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. As an alumnus of Muhlenberg College and someone very passionate about the Allentown community and its residents, I am demanding justice and I am demanding change.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the redistribution of these funds back into the community.

Thank you for your time,  
Hannah Turner

My name is Erin Friberg, and I currently reside in Fryeburg, Maine but attended Muhlenberg College from 2015-2019.

I am not so much shocked but extremely disappointed and angry to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. And very well could have gone the way of George Floyd.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage.
2. Release the names of the officers.
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation.
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted.
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and white supremacy and to strongly support the Black Lives Matter movement and the safety of your citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Friberg

- This is being sent as a public statement to be read at the city council meeting [on 7/15](#)

My name is Alex Goldman and I am a constituent from 2400 W Chew Street Allentown, PA, 18104. I am enraged and horrified to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the traumatic video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. How can you watch that video and not recognize the clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights?

I am DEMANDING that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the COMMUNITY. Your job is to serve the people. Do it.

Thank you for your time,

Alex Goldman

Dear Allentown City Council,

I am angered and sadden to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against the officer and to strongly support POC.

Thank you for your time

Hello,

Jessica Szasz, student from Muhlenberg College, called and supports the Black Lives Matter Movement and would like to defund the Police Department. She asked to see Council acknowledge and take responsibility for the devaluation of black lives at the hands of the police. She wants to see more investment in community resources to support black people so that they can thrive and survive.

Thank you.

My name is Erin Keller and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104.  
My address is 1934 W. Tilghman St., Allentown, PA.

I am shocked and saddened to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th, particularly in light of my public commendation of the Allentown Police Force as follows regarding an incident I witnessed earlier this year

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Glenn Granitz Jr.  
2020  
Chief of Police  
Allentown Police Department  
425 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101

May 24,

Dear Chief Granitz:

I want to take a moment to express my deep admiration and respect for the officers of the City of Allentown's Police Department. I was on my way to flag veterans' graves when I attempted to stop in at a store across from the LANTA bus terminal in downtown Allentown. I wanted to buy a soda. It was obvious that an altercation was taking place inside the store. There were officers inside and out. Apparently an older gentleman was suffering from a mental health crisis and/or ripped out of his mind. The man smashed objects in the store (he trashed the place) and threatened store staff and patrons. The Allentown Police officers worked for some time to subdue the gentleman. He was down on the floor and continued to violently resist arrest. The officers never drew their tasers or guns. They worked calmly to arrest the man without hurting him or allowing him to hurt himself. Eventually, with the assistance of police and EMS staff, the gentleman was loaded onto a gurney and placed in an ambulance.

I want to stress the great restraint, compassion and kindness our Allentown police officers showed for this man. It was truly community policing at its finest. Kudos to the Allentown Police Department for training our city's officers to act in such an exemplary manner. Blessings to them and the gentleman they assisted. I have never been prouder to call Allentown my home. Many thanks to these officers and their families and may they remain safe and blessed.

Sincerely,

Erin Keller

cc: Mayor Ray O'Connell  
Allentown City Council  
National Association of Chiefs of Police

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I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

- 1)Release body camera and security footage
- 2)Release the names of the officers
- 3)Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
- 4)Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
- 5)Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
- 6) DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against excessive use of force by the Allentown Police Department and to immediately strongly support an impartial inquiry into this case.

Thank you for your time,  
Erin Keller

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this statement publically at the 7/15 Allentown City Council Meeting:

My name is Jess Denke, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, ZIP code 18103.

In communication with Chief Granitz this past May I was told that the Allentown Police department has partnered with Saint Luke's Health network to provide specific hands-on, in-person training in the areas of crisis intervention and de-escalation. However we saw how a member of the APD treated a civilian on July 11th - by putting a knee on their neck while handcuffed and on the ground. This instance is another example of police, who claim to have significant deescalation training and do community-based policing, utilizing their social power to brutalize community members. We should empower other individuals, including mental health workers, to intervene in instances like this one.

I join with our community in demanding that City Council:

1. requires the release of body camera and security footage
2. requires the release of the names of the officers
3. ensures that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. suspends the officers while the investigation is being conducted
5. establishes a criminal justice review board in Allentown to address issues related to racism, social injustice, and police brutality
6. defunds the Allentown police and invest in the community

I urge each of you to take a stand for justice during your term and reevaluate the city's use of resources.

Thank you.

My name is Mariam Ghobrial, and I am a constituent from Macungie, Pennsylvania 18062.

I am disgusting and disappointed to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this injustice and to strongly support your community.

Thank you for your time,  
Mariam Ghobrial

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth. I live in Montclair, NJ (07043), but spent four years living in Allentown as a student at Muhlenberg College. As such, Allentown is dear to me and I want the best for its residents. This is why I am so horrified, angered, dismayed, and ashamed by the APD. Footage has emerged that shows that on July 11th, 2020, an Allentown police officer restrained a handcuffed civilian by applying pressure to the victim's neck using the officer's knee - the same maneuver that murdered George Floyd in Minnesota in late May. The police brutality protests that erupted after George Floyd's homicide seems to have prompted the APD

to release a use of force policy that forbids chokeholds. And yet, a week later, a deadly chokehold was used on an innocent sick man.

I join in on the demands that Allentown officials attempt to right this grievous wrong by:

-Releasing body camera and security footage from the incident -Revealing the names of the officers involved -Committing a thorough and unbiased investigation -Suspending the officers involved without pay until further notice -Creating a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality And, most importantly: -DEFUNDING THE ALLENTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT and using that money to invest in social welfare programs

The community of Allentown has been entrusted to your care. It is your duty, not only as council members, but as moral human beings, to do everything in your power to protect your constituents. You and your colleagues must oppose injustice and comply with these demands.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Post

Dear, City Council

My name is Juliet Simmet, and I am a constituent from Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, 19344.

I am enraged to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against injustice and to strongly support the Black Lives Matter movement and take it seriously. Why did this happen?

Thank you for your time,  
Juliet Simmet

To whom it may concern,

My name is Joshua Myers, and I am a student at Muhlenberg College and a temporary resident of Allentown for the greater part of a year. Given the recent footage of an officer using excessive force during an arrest (some of which mirrors the arrest and murder of George Floyd in Minnesota), I would like to know how you expect Allentown residents, temporary or permanent, to feel comfortable or even safe when dealing with police officers. As of today, we still do not have the names of the officers or the victim, a detailed report of the incident, the footage from the unnamed officers' body cameras, etc. Transparency is key when building trust within a community, something that police departments across the country have been failing at tremendously. The greater Allentown community does not trust the police department, and, in light of the handling of this incident, the community cannot be blamed. I know that, in the future, I will likely hesitate if ever put in a situation where an officer needs to be called, for fear of that officer exacerbating the situation with excessive force. I implore you to address this situation to your fullest



transparent extent with the public, and deeply consider reallocating funds away from the Allentown Police Department, and into more constructive community endeavors, like public education. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Myers  
Muhlenberg College  
B.A. Music / Psychology, Class of 2022

Mr. Michael Hanlon,

I write to you in regards to the event that occurred Saturday evening the 11th of July. Regardless of the circumstances of his crime, using force such as that is never ok. He could've been another name added to the too long list of POC killed by police officers. We demand that the officer that committed the hate crime be fired.

Please take some time to think about this. Have an open mind.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Andrea Keck  
Reading, Pa

Dear Allentown City Clerk,

My name is Brandon Alonso, and I am a constituent from Houston, TX, ZIP Code 77047.

I am very upset, like many others, to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. This is unacceptable.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage

Release the names of the officers

Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation

Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against Police Brutality and to strongly support your Black communities. There is nothing inherently bad about this request, which will uplift a community that has suffered long enough.

Thank you for your time,

Brandon A.

My name is Gabby Giotto, and I am a constituent from Pittsburgh, PA, ZIP code 15201.

I am disgusted to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support defunding the police.

Thank you for your time,  
Gabby

Dearest council people

What is the world is going on with our police? How is it possible that during a time when all eyes are on the police we still have cops on OUR OWN FORCE KNEELING ON NECKS!!!!!!!

And who is "investigating" this incident? The police themselves?

We must have an citizens advisory board NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wake up and govern this city!

Do not fool yourselves - this week it is a helpless person. Next week it will be someone you know whose rights are violated.

Jennifer Swann

~~~~~

Jennifer Swann  
1824 w Congress Street  
Allentown,PA 18104

To Whom It May Concern, and might I add, should concern,

My name is Corrin Magditch and I lived in Allentown for the last five years.

Words can hardly touch how I feel to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. Some of the words that immediately come to mind are disgusted, upset, angry, disappointed, and even those cannot touch the level of sadness and anger I am feeling towards this city and the officials who are in power. I have seen the video of the abusive police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian in distress. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials take the following action immediately with complete and total transparency:

- Release body camera and security footage
- Release the names of the officers involved
- Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
- Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
- Establish a criminal justice review board in cities and municipalities across the LV to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
- DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community. I cannot say this last one enough. It is what community members like me are asking for and we have the right, as the people who attempt to safely live, work, and play in the community you serve.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against the policing of Black lives and the harmful policies and procedures that injure our community members and to strongly support the safety and prosperity of the community you claim to serve.

Thank you for your time,  
Corrin

City Council Members,

My name is Lara Atry and I live at 2400 Chew St.

I have recently seen a tweet released by Ben Crump, the civil rights attorney representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, stating Allentown Police Officers held down a man's face and a knee on his neck. This incident occurred on July 11th. This is the same crime committed against George Floyd which led to his death. I have seen this video of the officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This is a clear violation of force policy and human rights.

I am now demanding that local officials release the names of the officers. I want to be ensured that there is a just, thorough, and unbiased investigation. I demand both the body camera and security footage to be released. I am also demanding the defunding of the Allentown police and the investment into the community. I will even offer you some places to reallocate those funds: housing, education, mental health counseling, and substance abuse treatment.

We need real change and it starts with you.

Hello Mr. Hanlon,

I am wanting to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage  
Release the names of the officers  
Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation  
Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted

Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality  
DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racism and to strongly support equality.

Thank you for your time,  
Janet Timoshenko

My name is Brett Heier, and I am a constituent from Macungie, PA, ZIP code 18062.

I am enraged to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Thank you for your time,

Brett Heier

My name is Kara, and I am a constituent from Macungie, PA.

I am writing to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community  
Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this act of violence and any form of police brutality.  
Thank you for your time,  
Kara Burkholder

Dear Michael Hanlon,

My name is Kirstyn, and I am a constituent from Coopersburg, Pennsylvania.

I am appalled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to support defunding the Allentown police as well as holding these officers accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your time,  
Kirstyn

Dear Allentown City Council,

My name is Lauren Todaro, and I am from Bethlehem, Pa 18017.

I am horrified to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Sincerely,  
Lauren Todaro

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

Please find below my public statement. I request that it be read during the City Council Meeting on July 15th.

My name is Purvi Parikh, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, ZIP code 18104.

I am devastated to learn of the incident of police brutality in my very own hometown of Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian and this was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. The ongoing violence against and murder of black lives by the hands of the police is unacceptable.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to take all necessary steps to ensure justice and prevent further violence against black lives.

Thank you for your time,  
Purvi Parikh

My name is Haley Galliano and I am a constituent from State College, PA, ZIP code 16801.

I am disappointed and angry to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights, so ill-timed and naive to the actions being taken by civilians all over the country to bring attention to the broken system we perpetuate.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support Black Lives Matter.

Thank you for your time,  
Haley Galliano

**This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday:**

Dear City Council of Allentown,

My name is Hannah Michelson and I am a constituent living in Allentown, PA. My residing address is at 2400 Chew St.

I am angered and appalled by the brutal force in the arrest outside of St. Luke's on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy released by the APD and of basic human rights. These policies are clearly not working and this instance is a clear example of the police force's incompetence in adhering to its own policies. Especially after everything that has happened with George Floyd's murder and other incidents of police brutality over the past few months, I see this arrest and disregard for a citizen's life as a deliberate attack on black and brown citizens in this city. As demonstrated by this incident, the APD does not protect its citizens or community like it is supposed to. It instead puts its citizens' lives at risk.

The only solution to this problem is to divest in the Allentown Police Department and invest in our lower-income communities. Our Allentown community as a whole needs and deserves this change immediately before we see more of our fellow citizens, our neighbors, put in harm's way in the hands of Allentown police and elected officials. It is up to you, Council members, to make this change. Our lives are in your hands.

Sincerely,  
**Hannah Michelson**

Hello,

My name is Ella Fino and I am a constituent from San Francisco, California, 94112.

I am heartbroken to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11. I have seen the video of the police officer pushing his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. Defund the Allentown police and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and racial injustice and to strongly support reallocating APD funding and redistribute it to improve educational, health, and community services.

Thank you for your time,  
Ella Fino

My name is Mary, and I am a constituent from Emmaus, PA. I live just across the Emmaus/Allentown border and often think of the two communities as extensions of each other.

That's why I was upset to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. The policy clearly states on page 6 that "Use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (chokeholds) is prohibited."

Since the officer violated protocol, he needs to be suspended until the investigation is complete. Regardless of whether or not you see this as a Black Lives Matter issue, it is an issue of police obeying their own codes. He needs to be held accountable for this.

Chief Granitz spoke to city council and said: "The men and women of [APD] stand ready to set ourselves aside from what's going on in the national narrative, and we'll improve every day so things like that do not happen here,"

Now is the time for him to prove his word.

Because this is so close to the George Floyd incident, the whole nation is watching us. Please keep that in mind as you act.

Thank you for your time,

Mary Lang

--



In harmony,  
Mary Lang, MA, MT-BC  
(she/her/hers)  
Music Therapy Associates, LLC

What do you value most? Is it money, fame, or true love? Have you ever wondered if there is something even more important during and after life? How good would you have to be to receive this treasure? Did you know the Bible says that none are righteous? This is because Romans 3:23 declares that all have sinned and come short of God's glory. Think about the 10 Commandments. Have you ever lied, stolen, or committed adultery? Ever used God's name in vain or as a curse word? Have you ever killed? Hatred is defined as murder in I John 3:15. God gave you a conscience so you would know that such things are wrong.

Would you agree to a judge failing to punish a known criminal who breaks the law? Of course not! Well, God is a righteous judge, and, although He loves us all, He will not overlook disobedience to His laws. We are all guilty of sin (which separates us from God) and doomed to be tormented forever in a place called Hell. However, God loved us enough to pour His wrath for sin on His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as He bled and died on the Cross for us. Jesus paid our fines for breaking God's laws. Hell was only created for the devil and the angels who rebelled against God; however, ALL who reject the blood of Jesus and continue to live in sin will go there. Everyone needs God's forgiveness, no matter how "good" you may be.

Salvation is ONLY obtained through a relationship with Jesus Christ. He said that a person must be born again to see Heaven. This is a spiritual rebirth that occurs when you sincerely call upon Him in prayer, trusting with your heart that He is the Son of God who died and rose again for your sins. Confess to Jesus that you're a sinner. Ask Him to come into your heart and forgive you, and repent (turn away) from all sin.



Tell others about your trust in Jesus as your Lord, be baptized in water, and live the rest of your life by faith in Christ and obedience to the Bible.

We don't have the promise of tomorrow, and it's too late to serve God after you die. Don't let your soul be lost because eternity NEVER ends. Christ thought you were worth dying for; He is worth living for. This is the most important decision of your life.(John 3:3/John 14:6/Romans 10:13)

ETERNITY: There are over 7 billion (that's 7,000,000,000) people on Earth. If every hair on every person's head represented one year, all of this amount of time is still not as long as the 1st second of eternity.

My name is Melanie, and I am a constituent from New York.

I am appalled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the movement.

Respectfully, Melanie Montesano

Sent from my iPhone

Dear City Council Members,

I am absolutely disgusted after having seen the video of an unarmed man being restrained by his neck and head at the hands of police. The Allentown Police Department recently publicly released their own policy regarding this kind of restraint. Under Section 1 of Article F it states that, "Use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (choke holds) is prohibited. Preventing imminent death or serious bodily injury to a member or citizen is the only possible exception to the prohibition." The Allentown Police Department (APD) has already posted a statement detailing that this citizen had spit and yelled. Neither of these actions are lethal enough to warrant the exception listed in this policy. Upon reviewing the full 9 minute surveillance footage released by the APD, it is also clear that the victim was physically unwell, compliant (he knelt on the ground and adhered to officer orders), and was tripped by the officers (which resulted in them piling on top of him until medical staff arrived). This officer, and all other officers involved, need to be identified and suspended pending an external investigation. I am urging you to encourage the APD to follow through on both of these fronts.

Furthermore, it is clear to see that the APD is not abiding by their own promises they make to the public. This is why we need a stronger community body to hold them accountable. I am writing to you to have a criminal justice review board be put in place in Allentown to address and hopefully resolve issues relating to police brutality, racism, and social injustice. I would also like to see the city council discuss reallocating a portion of the APD's budget and put it towards other programs, most importantly healthcare (which is all the victim was pursuing in the first place). I understand that you, Daryl Hendricks, have opposed this kind of budgetary change in the past. I implore you to reexamine this position.

In this moment of international discussion surrounding police accountability, how we deal with this story resonates now more than ever. Attorney Ben Crump, who currently represents in George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor's cases, has referred to this scenario as, "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." It is apparent to me that this is a very real case of police misconduct that MUST be handled at once.

While I would appreciate an email back, what is most important to me is that all of you, and Mayor Ray O'Connell, make a public statement about this incident. Pledge that you will hold the APD accountable and make real, systemic changes (like the ones listed above). The City Council is meant to represent the interests of the people of Allentown. Will you agree to encourage the council to fulfill that promise?

Sincerely,

Halle N. Nelson

---

My name is Tess, and I am a constituent from Allentown PA, ZIP code 18104.

I am appalled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support these demands.

Thank you for your time,  
Tess R.

---

Hanna Work, New York

Hello Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Hanna Work and I am a constituent from NY, NY but went to school at Muhlenberg College.

I am enraged to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage  
Release the names of the officers

Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation  
Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted  
Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality  
DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this type of brutality.

Thank you for your time,  
Hanna Work

---

Ella Bruck, 2400 W Chew Street  
This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday,

Dear City Council,

My name is Ella Bruck, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am horrified at the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy by the APD, we saw excessive force used against a citizen. Read that again. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy by the APD, we saw excessive force used against a citizen. It is clear to the community that these policies are not being implemented by officers and are not treating them seriously. I'm writing to encourage you to discuss defunding the police and investing in the greater Allentown community. I have spent the past three years in this city, and there is so much help needed from community members. I want you to ask yourselves, what good is a police force that will not adhere to its own policies and continuously put citizens, particularly black citizens, in harm's way? To fix this issue, we must divest in policing and INVEST in our communities, families, teachers, essential workers. I hope this starts a productive conversation.

---

Sara Pammer, Emmaus, PA

My name is Sarah Pammer, and I am a constituent from Emmaus, PA, 18049.  
I am disgusted, shocked and repulsed to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release footage from body cameras
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support investing in community resources that do not involve oppressing marginalized groups of people.

Thank you for your time,  
Sarah Pammer

---

Good morning, my name is Ben Stephens. Please forgive me, I am unfamiliar with the process. I have an appointment this Wednesday night during the City Council meeting for the Commission on Homeless. Tawanna Whitehead and Cece Gerlach have both made me aware of the live streaming starting at 7pm along with the web link. Tawanna mentioned I was able to email you a comment to be read after the vote. I would like to submit a comment to be read if that is possible. I don't want to assume I will be voted to the Commission on Homeless but if I am I would like to submit the following remarks:

*I would like to take the opportunity to thank each member of the Allentown City Council and Mayor Ray O'Connell for the appointment to the Commission on Homelessness. Thank you for this opportunity. I am excited to better serve the people who are homeless in our community.*

Thank you for your time. If there is anything that I have missed or should know, please feel free to reach out to me. I hope that you have a great day!

Ben

Hi Mike,

I understand that Mayor O'Connell will be nominating me to serve as the Chair of the new Commission on Homelessness. Tawanna Whitehead suggested I email you any comment I might have if the Council approves this nomination.

If the Council approves this motion, my comment would be as follows:

*"I appreciate the commitment of our City Council in meeting the needs of the homeless in our community, and pledge to work with this impressive group of citizens who have volunteered to serve on the Commission to address these needs."*

Thanks Mike! Let me know if there's anything else I need to do.

Tom

FOR CITY COUNCIL The people better watch what they wish for. The way the police are being treated, is a sin ! I watched the video ,I seen nothing wrong with the way the officer handled the situation at the hospital

Do you want Allentown to become the Wild Wild West? Everyone knows how I feel about our APD! The police are damed if they do & damed if they don't Police were criticized for giving out ice cream cones & connecting with the community!

As far as Josh Siegle & CeCe Gerlach Powell, talking about the council members the way they did, is unacceptable !! Josh,SHAME ON YOU! Standing with people yelling, FUCK THE POLICE!! I believe Black lives ,Matter, BUT , ALL black lives matter, not just the ones that think like you! As far as the whites in the march go, I believe

they are from a group known to go against the establishment! Want a Communist country. They have their own agenda! I could go on & on, but, Im looking forward to sharing my thoughts at a meeting when the state opens up!

Thank

Janet Keshl

I am Rebekah Hallenbeck from 19335. I would like to talk about the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. Release the name of the cop who did it and put him in prison. He needs repercussions for his actions. Be an example to the rest of America and give the victim justice. You can also be an example to the US by defund the police department. That doesn't mean "get rid of the police" it just means take away half or more of their findings and putting that money towards public school teachers, medical workers, and mental health organizations. Those are the people who genuinely need the money. They are underpaid and overworked. They are also the people that make the biggest positive impact in the community.

Thank you for your time.

~Rebekah H.

Dear City Council,

My name is Danica Schofer. I am a former Allentown resident, Allentown Central Catholic High School alum, and current student at Muhlenberg College. My mailing address is 2400 W Chew St. I am heartbroken and outraged that your officers put their knee on the neck of a man being arrested near Sacred Heart hospital the other day. So many people are protesting and fighting after the death of George Floyd from the same act. Why aren't you listening? I read the CBS article on the incident, which describes how the man was "staggering in the street" and "vomiting," "yelling and spitting" as he became "non compliant." My grandma had a violent form of dementia and psychosis, and APD came to our house many times when she was aggressive or accidentally called the cops or to assist her with medical needs. She yelled and spit and hit and was called "non compliant" many times. But she never had a knee on her neck. She was a white woman.

Nobody should experience what the man at Sacred Heart experienced the other day. But the fact that the man was a Black individual and that this situation happened in the middle of the Black Lives Matter movement exacerbated the issue and goes to show how strongly systemic racism exists not only in the world but in Allentown specifically. I guess I'm saying that I shouldn't have to remind you that Black Lives are beautiful and deserving of all the love and respect and care in the world. I will not accept any less for the city of Allentown than taking an active stance on anti-racism and Support for BIPOC communities in the ways I have described below. This man is beautiful. He was also sick and needed help, but you hurt him instead and in turn hurt so many others who see this as an example of what might happen to them because of the color of their skin. Let's prevent this from happening again.

We need to defund the police now. Invest in the Allentown community. I volunteer as a dance teacher in Allentown city schools. Let's build arts education programs, youth enhancement programs, and other education programs for people of ALL AGES. Let's increase the diversity of leadership for people in government and schools and other institutions. Let's increase education, addiction support, mental health and disability services, language support, and other social services. Let's improve infrastructure and support programs for those who have been incarcerated and their families. Let's invest in better healthcare for Allentown communities. Let's invest in non profits and small businesses, especially businesses owned by the BIPOC communities and other marginalized communities. Let's train more people to provide specialized services like domestic violence intervention and suicide intervention and support for other special circumstances. Let's hire citizens or low risk police work and other issues and therefore lesson the weaponizing that is happening in our city. Let's invest in violence interruption. And let's make sure that the council and the Allentown government is directly communicating with the BIPOC community to listen and support their needs and build a positive relationship. As much as I have learned as a white supporter of the

Black Lives Matter movement, my perspective is not as helpful as if the city could be a listener to the BIPOC community firsthand. This is so important. Please make a plan to make this happen.

I'm happy to support in any way I can. As I will be, please do your part to make combatting racism a daily practice in our city.

Thanks,  
Danica Isabelle Schofer

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My name is Jessica Dunn and I am a constituent from Easton, PA, 18042. I here to demand justice for the victim of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. It is horrific; this was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

- Release body camera and security footage.
- Release the names of the officers.
- Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation.
- Fire the officer who used excessive force.
- Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality.
- DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the demands of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Thank you for your time,  
Jessica Dunn

Dear City Council,

My name is Maiya Urquhart, and my address is 2400 Chew Street. I am absolutely appalled by the actions that occurred on July 11. This incident of police brutality is not ok and needs to be stopped. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and of human rights. I support the black lives matter movement and the demands to defund the police. I want to see responsibility taken by the city council for the dehumanization of a black life at the hands of the police. More investments need to be made into the communities to make sure Black people not only survive, but thrive. Black lives matter and the city council needs to take action before we see more destruction. I am demanding that local officials release body camera and security footage, release the name of the officers, ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation, and defund the police and invest in the community.

Sincerely,  
Maiya Urquhart

This email is intended to be read at the upcoming Allentown City Council Meeting on Wednesday.

Dear City Council,

My name is Simone Kaye; my address is 2400 West Chew Street. On July 11th outside of St. Luke's Hospital, an Allentown Police Officer used the same excessive force that killed George Floyd less than two months ago to restrain a member of the Allentown community. Not only did this use of force recently result in George Floyd's death- it directly violates the Allentown Police Department's policy that prohibits "the use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (chokeholds)." It is clear that policies such as these are not enough to hold our police officers accountable. It is clear that policies such as these are not enough to protect our citizens from the abuse of the Allentown Police Department. I demand the release of body camera footage immediately. I demand a statement from the mayor, City Council, and chief of police about this unnecessarily violent arrest. I demand the release of this officer's name and badge number. I demand he be at the very least suspended at this time. I demand that the City Council reallocate funds from the Allentown Police Department to other community resources, such as housing, education, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment. These are matters of life and death. We do not need empty policies to appease us. We need real change. And we need it now.

Thank you,  
Simone Kaye

This email is meant to be read at the City Council meeting today.

Dear City Council,

My name is Jaelyn Blonder, and I live at 2400 W Chew Street. I am writing to express how devastated and disgusted I am at the violent force used against a resident of our community outside of St. Luke's hospital on July 11th, and to demand immediate justice and change. The Use of Force Policy was just released, yet excessive force is still being used against community members; it is increasingly clear that officers treat these new policies as mere suggestions rather than actual rules – and much less as moral and ethical obligations – and that new policies, or “reforms” do not work. Rather than fulfilling their supposed function to keep people safe, the police force ironically continues to cause more harm than good. The police force is flawed in its foundation, so I am asking you to divest from policing, and invest instead directly in our community, thus establishing an ethic of care rather than continuing the violent cycles of brutality, fear, and racism. Show our Black and Brown community that they are cared for and valued. This action is vitally urgent: please act swiftly to stand up for our community, before more valued members of our community are hurt, or even face death. Please, do not remain complacent: lives literally depend on it.

Sincerely,  
Jaelyn Blonder