

Misty Maza

From: lauracross@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Public Testimony; Misty Maza
Subject: LM-2023-0571 - Civilian Review Board Amendment

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To whom it may concern:

At tonight's meeting, Ordinance Amendment, LM-2023-0571 will be proposed by the Civilian Review Board. The residents of the City of New Haven look to the Board of Alders to restore public trust in our processes and vote on measures that increase transparency and trust in our city operations and departments. I am respectfully requesting that the Board pass the ordinance to allow the CRB access to all police records and have the ability to conduct their own investigations as the Police Internal Affairs Team conducts theirs. By allowing both teams to conduct investigations concurrently, the significant delay and backlog can be eliminated. The current process has created a public perception of stalling and obscuring information that is relevant to the fact finding mission of these teams.

The police department focuses on community policing and as such, the CRB has a vested interest in the effectiveness and validity of our police processes. Allowing the CRB access to all police records, while IA is also reviewing records provides an additional level of internal controls to ensure unbiased investigation and is a crucial component to swift and well researched conclusions. It is unacceptable for IA/CRB investigations to have a several year backlog due to inefficient processes. Concerns related to confidentiality and privacy can be addressed through proper training and third party agencies to conduct an initial review of the records and present CRB with information that does not violate any privacy policies.

It is time for the Board of Alders to represent their communities and do what is right for the residents of New Haven. Voting to pass this ordinance is a good step in gaining back some of the trust that has been lost in the city's Alders.

Respectfully,

Laura Cross
Ward 18 Resident

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