



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Mayor's Report

August 29, 2023

MAYOR

Hello.

In March of this year, a group of residents proposed a number of amendments to the City's Charter relating to City policing practices. These changes were pursued by means of a petition which would have placed these proposals on the November 2023 ballot. As you know, the City had a variety of significant concerns with these proposed Charter amendments.

In a welcome development, following a series of discussions between the City of Shaker Heights and the Shaker Citizens for Fair Ticketing PAC, an alternate agreement has been reached.

This agreement involves two key components. First, the PAC has withdrawn its proposed Charter amendments from the November 2023 ballot. And second, the parties have agreed on a document called a "Framework for Maintaining a Safe and Just Shaker" that addresses a number of issues going forward.

A Resolution adopting the Framework was passed by City Council on Monday, August 28th and you may read it on our website at the link shown below.

Here to discuss this with me is Police Chief Wayne Hudson. Chief Hudson moved to Shaker Heights earlier this year from Omaha, Nebraska and is Shaker's first black Chief of Police. Odds are you have already met Chief Hudson as he has criss-crossed our community, meeting with - and listening to - residents, businesses, religious leaders and many others.

Thanks for joining me, Chief.

CHIEF

Thanks for having me, Mayor.

MAYOR

Chief, could you mention just a few items in the Framework that both the PAC and the City support?

CHIEF

Sure. The Framework contemplates:

- A community-wide Listening Project, to encourage residents to speak out about any concerns and suggestions about police policies and practices;
- A commitment by the City to continue working toward an expansion of our Mental Health Response Program;
- The creation of a Community Advisory Group to advise the Mayor, myself as Police Chief, the City's Chief Administrative Officer, and City Council;
- And the posting online of certain Police Department public documents and reports.

MAYOR

Chief, the City acknowledges that profiling and bias in policing exist throughout our nation, and that this national problem has disproportionately negatively impacted people of color. What are we doing to address this issue?

CHIEF

Mayor, we are committed to combating this problem by continuing to:

- Work toward safe, equitable, transparent, and accountable policing;
- Avoid biased or discriminatory policing; and
- Strive to achieve a just City for all persons who live, work and visit Shaker Heights.

It's an ongoing commitment.

MAYOR

Thanks, Chief. In the months ahead, we'll be announcing details of the community-wide Listening Project and encouraging your participation.

Meanwhile, thank you for joining us and be well.

CHIEF

Thank you.