

Lexie

Kenosha, WI 52142
October 15, 2020

John Antaramian
Kenosha Mayor's Office
652 52nd St,
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mr. Antaramian:

I'm writing this letter due to the recent events that started on the 23rd of August this year. I know first hand that this has not been the easiest year for any of us, and most of us are tired. On the 23rd of August, as I am sure you are aware, Mr. Jacob Blake was shot 7 times in the back by officer Rusten Sheskey. Jacob Blake, as I have come to the knowledge, is no saint. However, he is one of our citizens. There were multiple cops involved in this call that night. Mr. Blake had WALKED to his car prior to getting shot, but after being tased. Why, after taking slow steps to his car, was he then shot by the officer? Why was he not tackled to the ground? Why would one bullet to the leg not be enough to distract Mr. Blake, catch him off guard, and arrest him? Officer Sheskey had one hand holding Jacob Blakes shirt, the other nearly fatally shooting this man.

It's been almost 2 months since this event, since then, we have watched our city suffer in numerous ways whether it be grieving, anger, riots, fires, murders, etc. The people have received no answers. In the days of these riots, you were silent. The people of Kenosha did not hear a word from you. You let our city burn. Tony Evers let our city burn. 2 people were murdered under the illegally conceived weapon carried by a 17 year old boy who was not even a Kenosha resident. Sheriff David Beth made this as an opportunity to endorse Donald Trump's campaign, only gaslighting the entire situation. We've smeared the entire meaning and look of the Black Lives Matter movement. Black lives matter is not a hate group, it is not a terrorist organization. It is a demand, an idea, and an organization to unify everyone and see the racial inequality placed among our African American citizens. By letting these riots happen (which majority of the riots were filled with white people who were not from Kenosha); we allowed the BLM movement to be put to blame for this. Your silence hurt the movement, it allowed everyone to not hear the facts, but blame the innocent protesters (who I marched with and saw with my own eyes) for this. David Beth blamed the people. But I do not see anyone here blaming the officers. The people are once again left with no justice.

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There are many speculations that people use trying to "justify" this injustice. "Mr. Blake could have simply complied in the situation and would have avoided all of this." How does this justify being shot in the back 7 times? African Americans in our country are raised to fear authority, unlike white citizens who are told to respect those who help US. Systemic racism is real. People say that the officer could have shot out of fear, but we can say Mr. Blake stepped away out of fear. This is no justification as to why one man could be taken down by 4 officers, but instead let them wait to walk to their car, then proceed to shoot when his back is turned. Jacob Blake is accused of having a gun; I don't see where this is a problem considering we have the right to bear arms, as written in the constitution. What is this solution and answer to all the questions your people have? The sad truth that many of us have concluded is: Rusten Sheskey will probably walk away with a slap on the wrist because of his white officer privileges, Jacob Blake may never walk again.

Furthermore, KPD has been granted a fund in their budget to use body cams for a couple years now, but there are none in place, and don't plan to be used until next year. Why? Why did we not use the body cams if they were in budget? Why are we holding off from releasing the full report? Nobody is going to forget the tragedy here. My business has to board it's doors and windows every night as we sit and wait for answers, and wait for more injustice. No matter what the outcome may be, there will probably be protests (which shouldn't result in tear gas and backlash: protestors have rights, as long as its kept peaceful). There may be more riots (in which we need a plan and security). Kenosha will never be the old, peaceful Kenosha. It is time for change and reform. It is your duty as mayor to address the change and reform here that is much needed.

Our African American residents should not be instilled with fear when they are taught law and order. Our officers should not be fearful of black men walking down the street. Our chief of police should not embarrass our people and city on live broadcast for the entire world to see. Our mayor and governor should not be silent and let the city burn. We should not be gaslighting the situation, but should be putting out the fire. We need to advocate for not just our white residents, but all residents. It's time to see unity in this town, especially between our authority figures and our people.

Sincerely: A Concerned Resident,

Lexie

Kenosha, WI

Michael

Dear governor Evers,

The protesting and riots that were going on in our city went on too long. They destroyed our city, burned it to ashes, and blinded everyone from the real reasons we should be protesting.

I am writing to you because I want to know why you declined President Trump's help.

By not accepting his help it led to one more day of destruction and harm to family businesses..

You put your community in danger. When you finally accepted President Trump's offer of reinforcements, I don't know if you realized, but, the destruction stopped. I didn't see the point of not accepting President Trump's help in the first place, no matter what political parties are involved you wouldn't accept something that would help combat the rioters and make your citizens of Wisconsin safer.

In conclusion, you messed up, maybe I'm wrong, but, I'm just not seeing the reason for what you did. I believe that if we have riots again, no matter what president is in office,

President Trump or Biden, you should accept the help they offer so your city is not a war zone.

Sincerely,

Michael

A handwritten signature consisting of a large, loopy 'M' with a checkmark-like stroke inside it.

Racine, WI 53403

October 16 2020

625 52nd street
room 300
kenosha, WI 53140

Dear mayor Antarmian,

Hi, I hope that your day is going good so far. I am a student at the University of Wisconsin Parkside. I am writing this letter to you because I want to talk about climate change. I think that climate change is one of the biggest problems in our community today.

I understand that some people do not believe in climate change, but the evidence is right in front of our faces. There are a lot of ways that we as a community can help prevent climate change. Every year our world gets warmer, and warmer which causes our weather to change drastically. Some places that used to be cold are now hot and the places that used to be hot are, hotter during the summer and colder than usual during the winter. Let's take California for an example every year it gets hotter and hotter there which causes the air to be dryer. Which is "one" of the reasons that California has had so many wildfires.

I think that here in Wisconsin we have seen some effects of climate change. For one our weather is all over the place we used to have snow for christmas, but for two christmases we have had absolutely no snow. In september, the first week of the month is always hot but this year we started it off with cold weather. I think at this point our world is only getting worse and worse everyday.

So here is a way that I think that we as a community can help with climate change. We should start putting recycling bins all over the city. So that it makes it easier for people to find the bins we should put signs up pointing towards the bins. We can also get rid of plastic things that will only end up in the sewer drain, which leads to the ocean. We should start using environmentally friendly things, that will keep our oceans clean and the life that lives in it safe.

Sincerely,
chayna

(4)

October 16th, 2020

Kenosha Mayor

625 52nd St, Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mayor Antaramian,

I am a student currently attending UW-Parkside, I don't live in Kenosha, but one doesn't have to live in Kenosha to notice that recent events have called attention to the city. One of these events being the Black Lives Matter movements that has been taking place to reduce violence between police officers and African Americans. An example of this can be seen in Kenosha with Jacob Blake, an African American citizen who was shot multiple times by police officers. I'd like to first address that what happened to Mr. Blake was a tragedy, when an American life is lost in this country, nobody wins. Especially that of a man who was shot multiple times by the very people that were intended to protect him. Nonetheless, I have an issue with the events that have taken place afterwards, by that I mean the property damage, looters, and violence that may have ensued. I haven't heard any news as of recent events, but I understand that there were a lot of halts to businesses considering they either had to board up their establishment or it was damaged from the effects of people taking advantage of the positive protesting. I wanted to write to you about a solution that can assist in the reconstruction of Kenosha and can even assist in a more controlled protesting environment. It's simply by attaining more regulations over protesting. While this sounds controlling, I mean in the sense of how protesting can be made more effective to ensure the safety of businesses and people. Anyone who is encouraged to protest can feel free to, however they need to go about receiving a permit to protest in a specified location so that the city can attempt to make alternative routes for people who are just trying to go about their day to day lives. Furthermore, this would reduce the amount of violence that would take place on local businesses. Anybody who is protesting for a righteous cause would just stay in the designated area while anybody who is attempting to take advantage of the protesting and going to loot wouldn't fair to well since the protesting is in a controlled area. This eliminates looters running ramped around the city and wreaking havoc, this also dominos into less violence taking place between police officers and protesters. If the protestors have a permit that allows them to protest peacefully, police officers wouldn't have to worry about setting up barricades. Imagine police officers not having to worry about suppressing any of the protestors with tear gas since the protestors are all protesting peacefully. The protestors are simply just exercising their Constitutional right to freedom of speech, which in my opinion, is one of the most American things an American citizen can do. Now of course there is the issue with the pandemic and reducing the spread of covid-19 may be hard to do when asking people to stay restricted to a certain area. Nevertheless, Kenosha can attempt to encourage people to wear a mask and stay six feet apart as best as they can during the protest so that we can all play our part in reducing the spread and instead spread a positive message. I believe that there are people that are good and want to see change in our police departments and neighborhoods. However, with looters and people looking to cause more problems rather than fix them, they tend to outweigh the people that are trying to fight for a good cause for the sake of their children and the future generations of America. My solution may not

fix all the problems that Kenosha is facing, but I believe it is a start. If our cities can collaborate with a strong movement such as Black Lives Matter, we can look at broadening the importance and severity of this national issue.

Sincerely,

Gianni

Kenosha, WI 53142

16 October 2020

Mayor John Antaramian
625 52nd St
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mayor Antaramian,

I am writing to you concerning the current state of the Kenosha Police Department, more specifically the funding of bodycams. Following the tragic events that have occurred in our community and many others, it has been made clear just how important context and truth are in criminal justice. Without context, actions from both parties are left without explanation. It would benefit both the police department and the citizens of Kenosha if bodycams were funded and distributed for use. It is unreasonable to rely on citizens to videotape interactions with the police rather than providing officers with bodycams, so incidents are properly documented or possibly even prevented. Often times bystanders will begin recording once the situation has escalated, meaning we are not getting the entire story. The unadulterated truth is necessary when examining situations of injustice and there is no room for assumptions or bias. Aside from providing solid evidence to support cases, bodycams will also pressure officers to think twice before acting. As we all know, you are more likely to act recklessly when you believe there is no one watching.

To my understanding, bodycams have been made mandatory for officers in Kenosha, but will not be funded and distributed until 2022. Two years is a lot of time for error, and this issue should be taken more seriously as it has costed and could continue to cost the lives of minorities in our community. It would be in the best interest of the Kenosha Police Department, the citizens of Kenosha, and our city if bodycams were issued as soon as logically possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Zaynab



Kenosha Municipal Building

625 52nd St

Kenosha, WI 53140

October 16, 2020

Dear Mayor Antaramian:

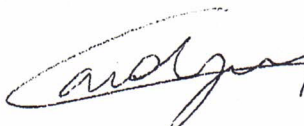
I hope you are doing well. My name is Carolyn and I am a resident of Kenosha. I am writing you to suggest a few ideas for further police training. I would like to suggest that the Kenosha police receive more training in dealing with the mentally ill. I would also like to suggest that social workers be on call to assist officers when dealing with the mental ill.

I feel that further training and education is the key to the police successfully dealing with these types of incidents. Through research I have found that the Kenosha Police department participates in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program which gives an officer forty hours of mental health training. Sir, I just do not believe that forty hours is enough training to deal with the mental ill, there are too many categories of people that fall under the mental ill sphere to be fully equipped to deal with each situation. Further education on how to deal with the mental ill reduces the risk of harm to both the officer and the public.

If further training is not possible for each individual officer, my I suggest possibly creating a specialized unit trained specifically in dealing with the mental ill, like San Francisco, CA police department has done. Another possible solution is having social workers on call to assist officers in dealing with the mental ill. Social workers specialize in dealing with the mental ill and will have more tools and resources to resolve these incidents peacefully and without harm.

I hope you will consider these ideas as that I feel these programs could make a safer Kenosha for us all.

Thank you,



Carolyn



October 16, 2020

John Antaramian
625 52nd St
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mr. Antaramian:

I hope you are doing well in these difficult and confusing times. My name is Andrew Buehrens, I am a student at Kenosha's university of Wisconsin Parkside. I am writing with concerns about the recent and tragic law enforcement brutality and riots that have been occurring throughout the city. I would like to offer my thoughts and ideas on how to correct these injustices to mend the unrest of the community.

While there may be no apparent simple solution, I believe it is of utmost importance that the community's views of law enforcement be that of unwavering trust, reassured safety, and unbreakable honor. The community's trust for law enforcement officers must be gained from acts of justice that uphold the integrity of the laws and ensure safety for each individual. Trust is sure to be broken when upholders of the law become those whom break it. The community's safety must be derived from the feeling that all parties involved are treated in fairness in accordance with defined laws and the right to trial. Safety is lost when the enforcers of the law become the judge, jury, and executioner. Honor is received from possessing the badge to enforce law, the community must witness and be assured that law enforcement officers are putting their lives on the line and not that of citizens. Honor becomes dishonorable when the ratio of citizen to police deaths is skewed in favor of one over the other, because officers that took a pledge, to help those citizens, develop too much cowardice to prove their willingness to act in accordance.

To my unfortunate ineptness, I have no solution, only thoughts. I hope that you and others of more experience shall find a favorable position and that these defining words for what a community needs in law enforcement help to build the city anew with brighter futures and desirable growth.

Best regards,

Andrew



Bristol, WI 53104

October 15, 2020

Mr. Antaramian

625 52nd Street Room 300

Kenosha, WI 53104

Dear Mr. Antaramian:

I hope all is going well. My name is Ryan, and I am a resident from Bristol, WI. I am writing regarding the militia presence within the county of Kenosha.

As known, on August 25th of 2020, protests broke out in result of the tragic shooting of Jacob Blake two days prior. During these protests, militia was seen in the streets of Kenosha, providing supposed protection against the protestors. The purpose of this letter is to ask for more control amongst the use of civilian militia instead of government military services in times of need such as that night. Not only were many innocent lives lost, many peoples businesses and livelihoods were destroyed in wake of the protests. There needs to be more control over civilian militias, who often thinking and make irrational decisions in the heat of the moment.

Me and my family are hoping to feel safe once again in the city of Kenosha, a place we call home. For this, we feel there needs to be more strict control over civilian militias. I appreciate your time of day and hope for there to be a resolve to the matter at hand

Sincerely,

Ryan

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Ezekiel
900 Wood Road
Kenosha, WI

16 October 2020

Dear Mayor of Kenosha,

As of lately, the topic of police brutality has become the utmost destruction of not only Kenosha county, but all over the world. This place we all want to believe is the land of the free does not seem to be quite accurate, as many cases of police officers harming, convicting, and murdering innocent victims. My life as an African-American male, I always have to look over my shoulder and work harder than anyone else, but does that mean I have to worry about being shot down in my own home or in the streets by the people wearing black and blue who took an oath to serve and protect. Stories such as George Floyd being, Breonna Taylor, Brittany Chrishawn, Elijah McClain and many more. Do you honestly believe that if Porsche Bennett, Brittany Chrishawn, or Breonna Taylor's partners did not survive their tragedies that these stories would have been told today? Some of these stories people could have just overlooked on the news, making incorrect accusations discriminating against people, and convicting them of crimes not committed. I have a solution to all of this, I do believe there are and know of some police officers who are good at doing their job to protect and serve as they are entitled to and I say this with a heavy heart but defunding the police is the only option. It makes our system look weak and corrupt that there are murderers in the police department that did not lose their job and let alone be put into incarceration. With all due respect, I appreciate your time and I hope you will take these words into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ezekiel

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October 15th, 2020

John Antaramian
625 52nd Street
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mr. Antaramian,

My name is Mallory and I am a first year student at UW-Parkside. The English class that I am in is writing letters to you about things that we would like to see change here in Kenosha, given what has happened in the last few months. I think this is a great idea, because not all of us can attend the listening sessions that you are doing (which is also a wonderful idea). I appreciate the time you are putting into rebuilding the city of Kenosha, and your efforts to make it a safer place for the people who live here. Although you are doing and have done everything that you could in the past, there are still a few issues that need some attention, and mental health is the most important of them all.

Mental health is not a new struggle. It always has and always will be a part of life as long as we humans are alive unfortunately. In recent years it has gotten a lot more attention which I believe has really helped struggling people feel less alone, more loved, and more accepted. A way to take this even further is to keep a social worker on duty/call at all times in a police department. Police officers are trained to handle violence, fights, arrests, etc., but are they trained properly to handle problems regarding someone's mental health in a life or death situation? Officers responding to a suicide attempt may not know how to talk that person down correctly, and it could end very badly. If a person is having a breakdown on the street due to an underlying mental illness, they do not need to be shot or arrested, they just need to be calmed down and properly handled with care by a trained professional.

This problem extends further than just psychological disorders. Social workers could help with abuse victims, drug abuse, and a multitude of other things. I really do think citizens would feel more protected if someone trained to deal with these issues was with officers responding to these calls. Please consider this idea thoroughly! I promise you would not regret it.

Thank you,

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Mallory

Kenosha, WI 53144

October 16, 2020

Mayor John Antaramian
625 52nd St
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mayor Antaramian:

I hope this finds you well. My name is Elena and I am a college student at the University of Wisconsin Parkside. I am writing in regard to what's happened to our town this past summer, and I would like to discuss police and community relations and a possible criminal justice reform. I believe our officers need more implicit bias training and more requirements to serve our community. I also believe that the Jacob Blake shooting needs to be properly addressed in order to prevent reoccurrence of this situation.

I am a criminal justice major and my classmates and I have discussed many things regarding this. As it stands today, I feel there are minimal requirements to become an officer. This is absolutely absurd. I would like to suggest that more training and other requirements besides a bachelors degree be in place here. Training officers should truly learn how to handle difficult situations involving the citizens while not from infringing upon their rights. Additionally, I would like to suggest weekly check-ins for these officers by a superior. It seems that our police sometimes forget what their job is about. They are supposed to serve and protect our community. I feel that in they are evaluated monthly or so, they may perform their duties more properly and proactively.

The shooting of Jacob Blake was absolutely not the first time I've heard of such injustice in our nation. However, this was the first time it happened so close to my home. I would like to say that this really opened up my eyes to the frequency and the severity of these situations. I think it's undeniable that the officers handling the Jacob Blake situation were not acting professionally. I understand that Blake was walking away from police. However there were many officers there, which rises one question. Why did they let him walk all the way around his car? They could have used the necessary force to stop him from walking that far but they did nothing. They precisely allowed him to walk away from them and proceeding to shoot him as he was leaning into the vehicle. That man was shot 7 times. Regardless of what was necessary in that moment, the gun absolutely did not need to be fired 7 times. This is brutality. That officer's first response when faced with a "possible threat" should not be to pull out a gun and shoot. This is why I suggest we train our police much better.

I hope you can take into consideration my suggestions, or at the very least come up with some of your own to address this public issue in our town. On behalf of myself and my community, I would like to hear what you as our Mayor plan to do to prevent the inevitable recurrence of these events.

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Sincerely,

Elena

Payton

Kenosha, WI 53144

October 14th, 2020

Mayor John Antaramian

625 52nd Street Rm#300

Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mayor Antaramian,

My name is Payton Leutner, and I am a freshman studying psychology-neuroscience and chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, WI. Like much of the city, and the state of Wisconsin, I am furious about the situation that happened with Jacob Blake and the Kenosha Police Department. I believe that it was a completely avoidable situation and the Kenosha police officers acted irrationally and fearfully. I read the article posted in the Kenosha newspaper and I wanted to take time to take you up on the offer to send in my citizen input. I had a few questions for you and your associates that I would love to address.

Firstly, there is obvious implicit racial bias that exists in your officers. When looking at numbers nationwide, not just in Kenosha, it is clear that black people are targeted more by police officers than white people. Black people are punished more for the same crimes white people make, and there are more black people imprisoned for the same crimes white people make. Now, Mayor Antaramian, how are you going to alter the police policies to change these statistics? A simple solution is more bias training in officers. I cannot say that there is no bias training, but I do know that there is very little, and I know that it is not taken as seriously as learning how to use a loaded weapon. But Mayor Antaramian, racial bias is a weapon of the mind. It hunts down people who don't fit its vision of "normal" or "good" people, and it does everything in its power to control them, no matter the cost. My suggestion to you is that racial bias is taken more seriously in the police force. Mandatory classes for all officers should be put in place before they are allowed into the field. Now I know that racial bias is not only systemic, it is also conditioned, so these classes will not solve the problem, but I believe that they can help save many black lives from complete and utter destruction at the hands of officers.

Secondly, when I was looking through the Kenosha Police Department website, and I did not see anything listed about mental health services for struggling officers. I believe that these services are necessary to have for officers because it can not only prevent officer depression and suicide attempts, but it can also reduce unnecessary violence and arrests. Having an outlet for

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officers to speak their minds and deal with their emotions is crucial to having a successful police force. It is not healthy for anybody to hold in their unhealthy thoughts, especially someone with as demanding of a job as a police officer does.

I understand that funding for these things may be difficult to come by, and I barely have a clue how that all works within the city. Organizing an annual fundraiser may be a good start. This fundraiser could revolve around Jacob Blake to honor his family and call attention to the problems that exist within law enforcement officers today. The mental health services don't even have to be therapy related, they could even involve volunteers that make crafts for officers or days where humane societies bring in puppies to play with. During finals, UW-Parkside brings in puppies to the library to reduce stress and increase motivation. It is scientifically proven that petting dogs boost serotonin levels, thus making people happier. This could work for officers to reduce stress and anger levels, thus making officers calmer and more willing to take less harmful measures to control criminals.

Now, I understand that you must be getting a lot of letters with suggestions on police reform from Kenosha residents, but I hope you take some of my ideas into consideration. I plan on staying in Kenosha long term, and I would love to feel safe here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Payton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Payton

Student

Bristol, WI 53104

October 15, 2020

625 52nd Street Room 300

Kenosha, WI 53104

Dear Mayor Antaramian:

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the current state of the city of Kenosha. This issue affects everyone in the county: the rich, poor, black, or white. My parents, as business owners, fear that future riots in Kenosha will spill out into the western half of the county. My parents, neighbors, friends in the community, and I would like more transparency into what the local government is doing to ensure the safety of its citizens. The most information we can get is from press conferences where Sheriff David Beth is heavily guarded in his responses.

There is also much misinformation being spread through Facebook which renders most, if not all, information the community receives useless. It would be of great value to the communities of both eastern and western Kenosha County to hear directly from the local government what is being done to curb political violence. It would be greatly appreciated if you or another official from the mayor's office could make a public service announcement about reconstruction efforts in the community. There has been great effort by the community to rebuild and reform Kenosha after the riots, but the local government has remained quiet since late August.

At the least, could you possibly put out a feel-good public service announcement to calm the nerves of the community. Any update or message from the local government not found solely through social media would be greatly appreciated.

Stay safe and stay healthy,



Keith

Blake

Kenosha, WI 53144

October 15, 2020

Mayor John Antaramian
625 52nd St
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mayor Antaramian:

Kenosha is a pretty great city all around, whether you live there, or are just visiting. While it is a great city, there are always changes that could be made to improve the city. I'm writing to you to suggest changes about the policing done in the city that I feel would make a very large improvement in the well-being of all citizens.

What I'm suggesting is to improve the training of all police officers employed by the city, which includes all current and future officers. This new training would be different in the sense that you would be training your officers to be effective guardians of the community, and not soldiers. No one should be scared by their own guardians, which are essentially what the police are supposed to be. Violence should never be the first option the police resort to. The key to the training would be sensitivity training, instead of physical training. The officers would still be trained to take care of an active shooter with force, but without a threat, this new form of training would be used instead. This new training would cost money to initiate, but in the end it will be well worth it for everyone in the community. There could be certain fundraisers throughout the community to pay for it, or maybe an increase of taxes on certain products to help fund the training process.

Thank you for taking the time out of the day to read this letter, and hopefully think about the suggestions that I have made. I believe that this would be a good change to implement, especially with all the outrage over the Jacob Blake situation.

Sincerely,

Blake

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625 52nd St

Kenosha, WI 53140

October 16th, 2020

Mia

Salem, WI 53168

Dear Mr. Antaramian,

This past summer was out of one's mind, and surprising to all of us. No one had ever imagined that riots and loss of lives would have ever happened in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I, Mia want to ask a few questions and to suggest an improvement about the situation to help all people in the city of Kenosha, and those around as well.

To start off, I really want to ask: How will you stop a second round of riots – if one occurs again – from not getting as bad as the last riot and to help protect Kenosha and its people? I thought that having National Guard come out to protect was, quite frankly, a poor decision, in my opinion. I thought that having them there caused a bigger scene and more rage to those rioting. I believe the tensions had just increased enough with their company, that things were worse than what it was supposed to be. Although the National Guard helped in some ways, I think we can come up with a better solution to stop a future riot.

I will suggest that instead of violence, we can perhaps communicate more as a city and protect reasonably. Instead of arresting and shooting people for them to stop rioting, police officers and maybe the National Guard can just roam the streets and demand for people to stay in their homes. If the people do not listen, push them to their homes where they are safe.

Thank you,

Mia

A handwritten signature, possibly 'JB', is enclosed within a hand-drawn circle.

Scarlet

Zion, IL 60099

October 15, 2020

Mayor John Antaramian

625 52nd St

Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Mr. Antaramian,

I hope you are doing well. My name is Scarlet , and I am a freshman at University of Wisconsin – Parkside. I am writing in regard to the protests that unfolded in Kenosha due to law enforcement misconduct that paralyzed Jacob Blake. This event deeply saddens me, and I have no faith in our system at all. Yes, a police officer has the duty to protect us, but they have no right to violate that duty. This abuse of authority needs to come to end as it is harming many Americans, especially minorities. Those who abuse their authority need to be prosecuted and there needs to be justice for all victims of police brutality. Justice needs to be served.

I fear that this abuse will continue and become more dangerous than it already is. As a minority, myself, I fear the police and I feel hunted, I do not feel safe in the hands of the police. I wouldn't want this fear on my kids in the future. No human wishes to see their child deal with

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this fear. I strongly believe that the only way to end this corruption is to defund the police. The police are not a neutral body, the institution is inherently biased. We need to stop investing in policing. We need real change; we need to invest into our communities. Why is it so easy to defund education yet defunding the police is such a controversy? Many people may think defunding the police will only result in worse policing and higher crime rates. However, that is not the case, policing does not keep us safe. If policing truly stopped violence and kept us safe, the United States would be the most peaceful country in the world. The best way to fight against crime is to invest in the neighborhood, cities, or states. Better healthcare, schooling, and food programs are infinitely better at reducing crime rates. Defunding the police and investing into our communities could be the next step to rise Kenosha from the ashes.

I hope you are able to take my words into consideration. This abuse of authority is never ending and enough is enough. We, the people, want an end to police brutality and we want peace. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scarlet

Scarlet