

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Joella Striebel <joellastriebel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 1, 2021 8:20 PM  
**To:** ZZ City Clerk External; ZZ Council Members  
**Cc:** Reynolds, Mitch; aengel@lacrossesd.org  
**Subject:** 21-0876 SRO MOU

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Greetings Common Council Members,

I am writing today in regards to Judiciary and Administration Committee Agenda Item 21-0876: Resolution accepting the School Resource Officer Program Memorandum of Understanding between the La Crosse Police Department and School District of La Crosse.

I urge the J&A Committee and the Common Council **not** to accept this MOU until and unless the language around accountability for conduct "in conflict with the terms of the agreement" is made more specific and clear. Currently, section E of the MOU states, in part:

"The La Crosse Police Department and all of its members, as well as the School District of La Crosse, recognize the importance and value of listening to and considering a broad range of community perspectives on policing within the schools. Additionally, they also recognize that members of the SRO Program Advisory Committee are citizen and community volunteers whose valued participation on the committee must be welcomed, encouraged and supported. Finally, they recognize that members of the committee must be treated with dignity and respect, privately and publicly, even when they share perspectives or feedback that may be different from the department and/or its members or the District.

To that end, the La Crosse Police Department and the School District of La Crosse provide assurances that members of their respective organizations will be informed of the work of the advisory committee and the terms of this agreement by their administration. Furthermore, the La Crosse Police Department and School District of La Crosse commit to addressing any instances in which one or more of their members' conduct is in conflict with the terms of this agreement."

As briefly detailed in this La Crosse Tribune Article ([City looks to approve new SRO contract with La Crosse Schools after pause | Crime and Courts | lacrossetribune.com](#)), we have a recent history of City of La Crosse police officers retaliating against individuals with "perspectives or feedback that may be different from the department." I am the former Citizen Member of the CJMC referenced here who was targeted online by an officer or officers of the La Crosse Police Department.

Unfortunately, what we do not have any recent history of is "addressing any instances" of such conduct. In this case, which has had profound and lasting impacts to my safety and wellbeing, there has been nothing resembling transparent accountability. I have not been permitted to know the identity of the officer(s) who targeted me. I have not been permitted to know how they obtained my private photos, which they published without my consent. I have not been permitted to know what, if any, disciplinary measures have been taken. Because I do not know the identity of the officer(s) who targeted me, I am unable to file a formal complaint through the Police and Fire Commission. Despite recent statements made by my council representative/county board supervisor, there is no option to anonymously file a formal complaint with the PFC, and there is no option to file a complaint (which must be notarized) at all without identifying the officer(s) about which the complaint is being made.

Given this history, the "assurances" described in the MOU have little meaning and provide little comfort to individuals who may wish to serve on the SRO Advisory Committee without expecting retaliation and public character assassination should they express any concerns or criticisms related to policing in our schools. We don't need assurances. We need

policy.

Please ask the City of La Crosse Police Department and the School District of La Crosse to revise this MOU with specific policies and procedures outlining how officers retaliating against Advisory Committee members, anonymously or otherwise, will be held accountable, and ask them to demonstrate that these policies are effective by applying them to the cases of anonymous retaliation that have already occurred.

Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter, and for your service and commitment to the City of La Crosse.

Respectfully,

Joella Stribel  
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