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RE: Letter of Support for the Law Enforcement Center (#8)

Dear Finance & Personnel Committee:

As a father of seven children and an owner of a small business in La Crosse, I view public safety as the highest priority of local government. I commend the City of La Crosse for giving the police the tools they need to continue to keep our community safe.

In these times of uncertainty, we need a strong police force to keep the peace. Just this last week we had a murder at a local business. It did not take long for that suspect to be put in jail. While in other cities the police may be vilified, our police force is well respected.

Although we know that the Coronavirus is contagious, many people do not know that crime is also contagious. For those that want to learn about how crime in cities like La Crosse can become contagious and what to do about them you can review George L. Kelling and Catherine M. Coles, *Fixing Broken Windows* (New York: Touchstone. 1996) or chapter 4 in Malcolm Gladwell's book, *The Tipping Point*. In a nutshell, if small crime is ignored or not pursued by an inadequately funded police force, it leads to more people who ordinarily would not commit crime to feel they can get away with it. It is called the Broken Window Theory and it is what cleaned New York City back in the 1980s.

We cannot allow La Crosse to become blighted with crime. As a community, we support our police and I fully support granting the initial \$1 million dollars for a new Law Enforcement Center.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernardo Cueto", written in a cursive style.

Bernardo Cueto