

Debra Thompson

From: Debra Thompson
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: FW: Thin Blue Line

From: Will Ware <warehouse95@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Debra Thompson <dthompson@petersburgak.gov>
Subject: Thin Blue Line

Assembly,

I am perturbed to say the least to have read of Sarah Fine Walsh's email correspondence with our Borough manager regarding a flag that has a thin blue line used to show support of law enforcement.

To insinuate, or rather accuse our Police Dept of racism tells me Ms. Fine has no idea of what racism truly is. Racism is not interpretive! Let me repeat this....Racism is not interpretive! It is as tangible and real as paper, or screen as the case may be, that you are reading from. To suggest otherwise is to diminish what real racism is.

Removing rights from a person because of their ethnicity is racism. Sharing disparaging words or opinions because of someone's color is racism. Denying fair and equitable parity in society because of someone's heritage, this is racism. Supporting Law Enforcement....with a blue line in a flag, is not racism. To make the suggestion this is racism, is both ignorant and is a stretch to promote fear and divisiveness where there should not be.

I believe this is simply a continued attack on our Police Dept, a culturally diverse Police Dept., for no other reason than a dislike of the Chief. For that matter, I would venture to say this is the most culturally diverse dept in the Borough. Strength, wisdom and awareness come naturally from diversity.

The saying from Hamlet, "doth protest too much" seems to ring true here. This protest makes one begin to wonder if SFW, her colleagues, clients and friends have issue with the Chief because he runs such a diverse dept? Maybe it's just because they don't like his politics as referenced prior...if the latter is true, it is just as unacceptable to us voters.

Crime is down, Officers are participating in community events, making themselves seen at Basketball games, popping into stores to say hello, and answer calls and emails almost immediately. We are so fortunate to have such a responsive Police Dept. And to specifically call out those who are attacking the PD, look inside and be careful because it appears the only dept attacked is the one that is so culturally diverse. Coincidence? If so, unfortunate. But my experience is that coincidence is rare.

Please feel free to respond. My cell number is below.

Will Ware
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