



City of Saratoga Springs
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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An open letter to the men and women in uniform who serve the City of Saratoga Springs:

As you know, by a vote of 4-1, the City Council approved a resolution on May 2, 2023 that “acknowledges that Saratoga Springs has supported and allowed racism and hate in areas of housing, employment, law enforcement and other areas of formal and informal life during its history” and which further resolves “that the first step to true reconciliation and restorative justice is to acknowledge, apologize and review this past.” As you also know, mine was the lone voice of dissent on this resolution in the Council.

I am ashamed that my colleagues have allowed the City Council to become a sounding board for a misplaced and doomed ideology. I am ashamed that people who were elected to lead have instead chosen to follow. I am ashamed, as a part of the civilian authority which serves men and women who have freely chosen careers that require them to run in the direction of danger and not from it, to be a member of a City Council that cowers in fear from mere words shouted from the mouths of a mob intent on spreading chaos and division in our City.

The work you do every day proves that you value service over self. Please know that Deputy Commissioner Tetu and I appreciate your sacrifices and commitment, though others in city government may not. Please know that you owe no one an apology; that the citizens of and visitors to this City enjoy its freedom, its welcome and its safety thanks to your service; and that those citizens and visitors frequently express their gratitude through our office, even though our own City Council may not.

Respectfully,

Jim Montagnino