

## Mistretta, Susan

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**From:** Emily Rose <edestiny7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:07 PM  
**To:** City Council - All  
**Subject:** Support of the Dover Mounted Unit

**Security Notice:** External sender. Use caution with hyperlinks or attachments.

Dear council members,

I fully support our city keeping our mounted patrol, and hope we do everything possible to do so. Our mounted patrol is a unique characteristic of our community, and we love seeing them. Is there anything that can be done to incentive another officer to replace retired officer Michelle Murch?

Below are comments from the Unofficial City of Dover Facebook group concerning this topic, that I thought might be helpful as well.

Thank you,

Emily Rose  
7 Quail Drive

## Nancy George Berube is with Ron Cole

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It sounds like there maybe plans to discontinue the Mounted Patrol. We need to rally support for the program! The community trail, downtown still need to be patrolled, and homeless monitored which would be safer on horseback. The only cost to the City is the officer's salary, ALL other expenses and care are donated or done by volunteers. Let's email Chief Breault, Mike Joyal and Mayor Carrier!

## Supporters of the Dover Mounted Patrol

I have heard a rumor that they have called a special council meeting to discuss the horses. Doesn't sound good. I will work to track down the details. In the meantime, emails to Chief Breault, Mike Joyal, and Mayor Carrier would help show support!!

Krystal Chase Small

Oh no!!! We love mounted patrol!

Lisa Russo Stacy

This would akin to closing the pool. The Mounted Patrol is one of Dover's gems.

Jeffery DohertyCheap have mounted patrol then the cars they beat to crap

Andy Bailey

I don't mind the mounted patrol, but around the recent graffiti all over the trail, I have to think can't those officers walk or bike the trail to keep up on enforcement? It's not like a horse is required for that.

Matt Menard

Andy Bailey

exercise would do some of those officers some good, they spend too much time in their cars idling in parking lots, just today seen 3 cars idle....rather see them on bikes or something else. Horses can't move fast

[Derek Rust](#)  
[Andy Bailey](#)

You are right, it could be done on bicycle. But the having the horses really breaks the ice between officers and the public, especially with children. All the expenses and care, except the two officers salary, is donated so whether they are on bicycles or horses the cost would be the same

[Nathan Burnett](#) Mounted patrol is good for all the wooded areas around town. They also are great for community outreach

[Jon Niehof](#)

Officer Caproni is the usual law enforcement liason to the Community Trail committee and he's put a lot of work into the graffiti issues on the trail and around town. The mounted patrol does pretty regularly ride the trail to keep an eye on things.

[Nancy George Berube](#)

[Derek Rust](#)

I believe too that being on a horse is safer especially in light of Covid precautions.

[Nancy George Berube](#)

[Jon Niehof](#)

Graffiti has increased since the suspension of the unit.

[Lynette Aucoin](#)

Indeed it has, and it's becoming more visible in every day travels - even the dinghy at the intersection of Portland and Main has now been tagged!

[Micaela Demeter](#)

Can someone please post the email addresses for these 3 individuals?

[Deborah Clough](#)

[Micaela Demeter](#)

r.carrier@doover.nh.gov; M.joyal@doover.nh.gov; w.breault@doover.nh.gov; citycouncil-all@doover.nh.gov

[Micaela Demeter](#)

Thank you!! Done

[Nancy George Berube](#)

[Deborah Clough](#)

Thank You!!

[Sue Clark](#)

Why would they get rid of the program?? Great for the community and they have chased people through downtown alleys. It would be a mistake to stop the program. We are proud of our mounted patrol.

[Larry Pilla](#)



Rumor. Please find out the truth before posting.

[Nancy George Berube](#)

[Larry Pilla](#)

The effort to discontinue the program has not been an open process unfortunately so I post what tidbits I hear. I will post info as I get it.



[Larry Pilla](#)

I'm not saying you're wrong but I can't think of a single logical reason the city would consider this. I don't even think the maintenance of the horses comes out of the city budget.

[Carol Gardner](#)

[Larry Pilla](#)

while I hope this isn't the case, liability, labor, and cash flow is what comes to my mind. The effort depends on volunteers to donate their time to take care of the horses, private businesses to fund the horses

[Carol Gardner](#)

If volunteers aren't available to muck stalls for whatever reason, or if the city's insurance determines it's cost-prohibitive, or if already-struggling local businesses can't donate anymore, that's a huge problem. C&J paid for one of the horses, who was named in their honor, and they aren't even operational.

[Micaela Demeter](#)

[Larry](#)

, I mean... I've had a written conversation with Michelle Murch about this in recent weeks. This threat is not wild speculation if it's coming straight from the horse rider's mouth.



[Larry Pilla](#)

Okay. It just seemed sketchy - an admitted rumor from a third party...

[Micaela Demeter](#)

I felt confident in the veracity of the information, which is why I just emailed the powers that be to voice my support for the program. If you agree, do the same!

[Michelle Colgan](#)

I certainly hope that this doesn't happen, they are the best ambassadors for community / police relations that Dover has.

[John Burns](#)

I don't believe this is anything more than rumor. When is this special city council meeting, if it exists there is a date for it. Do you have sources to back up any of this?

[Whitney Gagnon](#)

[John Burns](#)

Hi John, I hope you are doing well. I wanted to let you know that this isn't a rumor. The meeting will be held next Wednesday at 6 PM (cable channel 22 or live streamed through the City website). All comments for consideration must be submitted before 5 PM (citycouncil-all@dover.nh.gov)

[John Burns](#)

Arggh, surprising and very disappointing if potential of this. What a tremendous loss to community policing efforts this would cause.

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

[John](#)

it's all true sadly.

[John Burns](#)

[Michelle Foster Murch](#) super disheartening.

[Susan Danforth](#)

The Dover Mounted police has already stopped....

[Regan Gentner](#)

[Susan Danforth](#)

Really? When?

[Micaela Demeter](#)

The horses were sent to live elsewhere a little while ago because of Covid restrictions and a need to reallocate Officer resources elsewhere during the pandemic. I think the fear is that this was the nail in the coffin since it also coincided with Michelle's retirement as one of the two riders.

[Riley Pidgeon](#)

[Connor Patrick](#) Not everyone in town likes the Mounted Patrol.

[Ruth Miller](#)

I think we should keep the mounted patrol!

### [Larry Pilla](#)

If there is truth to this and it's due to cost, this is what happens when too many people complain the city should attend only to "needs" and not "wants." We don't need a mounted patrol but the city is poorer if we don't have one.



### [Deborah Clough](#)

<https://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-operations/police/mounted-patrol/mounted-patrol-mission/index.html>

### [Chris Ess](#)

I used to see this one horse cop texting and riding all the time. I think it's probably fine to text while riding a horse at a slow trot but it was kinda funny

### [Micaela Demeter](#)

From Mayor Carrier this morning:

The city council has a workshop next Wed (June 3rd) to discuss the mounted patrol. You can view on channel 22 starting at 6pm or email your comments ahead to city council all for a live reading.

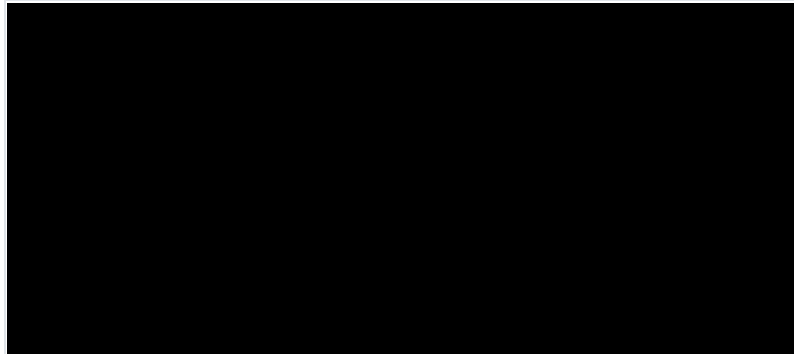
citycouncil-all@dover.nh.gov

## [Cindy Dodge-Hobson](#)

What is happening with the Mounted Police program??The horses were moved. Why?? Are the horses coming back?? It makes Dover unique and special.

### [Pamela Krassner Giguere](#)

[What social distancing looks like for first responders](#)



### **What social distancing looks like for first responders**

Kyle Stucker

DOVER — As New York and other COVID-19 hot spots report thousands of their first responders have tested positive...

### [Kavla Lutz](#)

It seemed unnecessary in the first place

### [Micaela Demeter](#)

### [Kavla](#)

the mounted patrol program seemed unnecessary? So much of the physical care and supplies for the horses is donated by local people and businesses to reduce the financial burden on the police budget. I'm sure many people in this group could cite specifics, or you could Google. I don't think you can put a price on a program that puts officers right in the heart of the city, interacting with residents and especially children in a positive, collaborative way. That pays dividends for generations. As the original poster said, it's what makes Dover unique and special.

### [Andrew Townsend](#)

### [Kavla Lutz](#)

I agree, the mounted police is one of the many things that makes Dover special.

[Cindy Dodge-Hobson](#)

[Micaela Demeter](#) I would love to support the program when we reopen. Who do I contact? where are the horses being stabled presently?

[Micaela Demeter](#)

[Michelle Foster Murch](#) I'm sure you can speak to this question much more helpfully than I could!

[Pamela Krassner Giguere](#)

[Cindy Dodge-Hobson](#) they have a Facebook page. Friends of the Mounted Patrol

[Jill Ashman King](#)

[Kayla Lutz](#)

community policing is absolutely needed in Dover and this is a fantastic example of it in our town!

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

[Micaela Demeter](#)

the entire program was funded through donation! I feel that it was an aggressive move taking the horses off the property (didn't make sense when volunteers were caring for the horses anyways) and it's highly unlikely it will return at this point.

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

[Cindy](#)

the horses are "temporarily" at Bennys owners home here in NH. You can email J.caproni@doover.nh.gov

[Micaela Demeter](#)

[Michelle](#)

wow, really? I understand the need for new protocol right now, but I hope when all is said and done the residents of the city have an opportunity to voice their opinion and support for the program. Which department should receive that feedback? Police directly? City manager? Someone else?

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

city council should hear your concerns.

[Heidi Krassner](#)

[Kayla Lutz](#)

you have no clue. Brought the community together. And was great for children. Kayla ever heard if you have nothing nice to say then don't say it. What a slap to Dover PD

[Heidi Krassner](#)

[Micaela Demeter](#)

I am happy to help give feedback on this. If you want to organize something together

[Deborah Clough](#)

[Heidi Krassner](#) CityCouncil-All@doover.nh.gov

[Heidi Krassner](#)

[Deborah Clough](#) thank you

[Katie Benway](#)

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

ask your husband if he remembers climbing through S Peterson's window when I locked myself out many years ago while house and pet sitting for her  I had my horses at her barn for several years back then.

[Kayla Lutz](#)

I didn't mean offense and was unaware it was done through donation.

[Heidi Krassner](#)

I didn't say anything rude. Thanks all for the information. No need to continue to comments on my piece.

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

[Katie](#) yup he does 

[Katie Benway](#)

that was embarrassing

[Sara Rochefort](#)

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

that is just horrible news. I'm so sorry to hear

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

[Sara](#) I hope I am wrong, but unfortunately I fought that battle for many years...

[Micaela Demeter](#)

[Michelle](#)

can you shed some light on the obstacles the program faces? If PM is better, feel free! I actually am supposed to send you a recipe from Amy's recipe exchange, so maybe I'll do that and you can have my email address instead

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

[Micaela](#)

I retired that was the biggest problem. There are no issues besides staffing the unit. They needed to replace me. But now they gave back the horse we spent 5 months training. And moved CJ.

[Susan Barnes](#)

[Michelle Foster Murch](#)

oh my word. I had no idea this was happening. 

[Jacey Rogers](#)

Shut down temporarily like other non essential things.

[Rose Theresa](#)

I love that we have mounted police. Hope they will be back soon. The horses can get to places that cruisers can't, and they add a certain charm to Dover. Always like seeing them.

[Dan Walker](#)

They were hoofing it down Main St two weeks ago when the weather was nice.

[Beth Sandock](#)

hope its just a horse-y vacation! Maybe a nice pasture? We love the Charm and beauty these horses bring to the city.

[Nancy George Berube](#)

I am a volunteer with them and will be setting up a FB page for supporters....bring Ofcr Caproni, CJ & Benny back!!!! This temporary arrangement is temporary because of manpower needs.

[Nancy George Berube](#)

We, as a community, need to make sure that "temporary" means temporary.

[Barry Riordan](#)

Always enjoyed seeing the team in town with at least two of them good for giving you a smile. Betcha Benny is happy to be home. CJ , my favorite, hope you get to retire with Rasa .

[Timothy Hunt](#)

Loved that Dover had the mounted police. I hope that they are not discontinuing the program. It is one of the things that makes Dover stand out, and really demonstrates the community policing philosophy that makes Dover PD the best I have ever experienced.

