

## Mistretta, Susan

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**From:** Gagnon, Whitney <Whitney.Gagnon@MCLANE.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 6:24 PM  
**To:** City Council - All  
**Subject:** Mounted Patrol Unit

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

Dear Council Members,

I am writing with regard to your upcoming discussion regarding the Mounted Patrol Unit.

As you know, the Mounted Patrol Unit is an integral part of our community and one of the primary reasons that Dover is such a desirable place to live. As such, like many of our citizens, I am looking forward to the return of the Unit as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Mounted Patrol Unit is one of the most important aspects of Dover's community policing efforts, and now, more than ever, it is important for the Unit to be reinstated to provide increased visibility and approach-ability. From the effectiveness of addressing and reducing "quality of life" crimes, to the impact the Unit has on establishing positive community relations starting with our youngest citizens, the benefits of the Unit are immeasurable. Research has shown that in neighborhood settings, mounted police patrols are associated with higher levels of visibility, trust, and confidence in police.

As a volunteer and supporter of the Unit, I am eager to start helping to take care of the horses again. Based on the time and effort dedicated by the volunteers, and the generous funds donated by the supporters, the members of our community have spoken with regard to our need and want for the Unit. The value provided to our community by the Unit significantly outweighs the staffing resources required of the DPD to sustain the Unit. Allocating two officers to the Unit increases the success of the service provided by the DPD to our community in a way that cannot be met by other means.

Since horses are herd animals, it is important that CJ has a companion upon his return, and I understand that Benny's trial period was a success and that he would excel as a police horse. I hope that Benny returns to the stables along with CJ.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Whitney

**Whitney A. Gagnon**  
Attorney

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