

June 24, 2020

City Manager Mike Joyal
Mayor Robert Carrier
Deputy Mayor Dennis Ciotti
City Councilor Lindsey Williams
City Councilor John O'Connor
City Councilor Michelle Muffett-Lipinski
City Councilor Deborah Thibodeaux
City Councilor Joshua Manley
City Councilor Dennis Shanahan
City Councilor Fergus Cullen

I am writing in reference to the June 3, 2020 workshop meeting to discuss Dover Mounted Patrol. As a resident who witnessed the important role the Dover Mounted Patrol served in our community, I am disappointed in the outcome of that workshop.

Moreso, I am disappointed in the process.

I have heard time and time again that comments for scheduled public hearings and citizens forum are encouraged. Prior to the pandemic, I was in regular attendance at City Council meetings and saw how few citizens took the opportunity. I encouraged fellow citizens to make their voices heard, to be part of the process. Some said it didn't matter, that decisions were already made and that it wouldn't make any difference. I did not believe them.

I know what the word "workshop" connotes in my mind, but to be sure, I looked up the definition. "Workshop" - a meeting at which a group of people engage in intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject or project.

The amount of correspondence received from the public on the topic of this workshop was overwhelmingly in support of keeping the Dover Mounted Patrol. When Councilor Shanahan finished the reading of presumably all the public input, Chief Brault announced his decision. It appeared that the decision had been made prior to the reading of the correspondence. What was the point of soliciting input from the public if the decision had already been made? It was not a workshop. It was a presentation. I naively thought that there was some weight to the public input, that there was to be a discussion during the workshop.

As well, I do not understand why, with the exception of one letter from Robert West and Geraldine West, public input correspondence is still, after three weeks, not attached to the Meeting Minutes for the June 3rd Workshop. Without a written record of public input attached to meeting minutes, there is no transparency—just a list of who wrote, via what means, when and where it was forwarded to (ie. "Andrew Townsend, 122 Sixth Street: email to City Council—All received on May 28, 2020 at 2:15 PM"). How would a Non-Council member know that what was read is what was actually sent, in its entirety? The Meeting Minutes indicate that there were 46 emails to City Council-ALL and 3 voice mails which were received yet none of them are attached.

Further, in late March, I received a message from a volunteer animal caretaker of the Dover Mounted Patrol that there were plans to move the horses to "temporary" homes that week. I emailed to express support of the Mounted Unit on March 30th:

From: Deb Clough <clough.deb@gmail.com>

Subject: Support for Mounted Patrol

Date: March 30, 2020 at 1:55:08 PM EDT

To: William Breault <W.Breault@dover.nh.gov>, Robert Carrier <R.Carrier@dover.nh.gov>, Dennis Ciotti <d.ciotti@dover.nh.gov>, Michael Joyal <M.Joyal@dover.nh.gov>

Cc: kstucker@seacoastonline.com, rcole@seacoastonline.com

I am writing to express my support for Dover's Mounted Patrol.... one of the things I love most about Dover. This makes our community special.

Please keep C&J & Benny where they are, don't move them to "temporary" homes. I understand that many

volunteers will happily continue to care for the horses while Officer Caproni works in a different capacity within DPD.

Deb Clough

I received a response that Chief Breault addressed to Nancy George Berube stating:

On Mar 30, 2020, at 3:10 PM, Breault, William <W.Breault@dover.nh.gov> wrote:

Nancy,

Feel free to contact me directly should you have additional questions or concerns about the future of the unit. What you have posted on Facebook is simply not accurate. There is no plan on moving both horses to temporary placements this week. Officer Caproni is not being moved at this time. The department is simply making contingency plans should Officer Caproni need to be reassigned due to the current pandemic or should a significant number of volunteers be impacted by the virus. These contingency planning actions do not mean that the unit will be discontinued. The purpose of my earlier email to you and other volunteers was to clarify rumors not continue them, which is what I am afraid that your inaccurate post is doing.

Respectfully,
Chief Breault

Bill Breault
Chief of Police
City of Dover, NH
46 Chestnut Street
Dover, NH 03820-4169
e: w.breault@dover.nh.gov
p: 603-742-4646

To be sure, I felt a bit embarrassed by the suggestion that I had acted on a "rumor," but I thanked the Chief:

From: Deb Clough <clough.deb@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Status of the Mounted Patrol

Date: March 30, 2020 at 3:37:22 PM EDT

To: "Breault, William" <W.Breault@dover.nh.gov>

Cc: "boxerbigdog@hotmail.com" <boxerbigdog@hotmail.com>, "Caproni, Joseph A." <J.Caproni@dover.nh.gov>, "Joyal, Michael" <M.Joyal@dover.nh.gov>, "Terlemezian, David A." <D.Terlemezian@dover.nh.gov>, "Carrier, Robert" <R.Carrier@dover.nh.gov>, "Ciotti, Dennis" <D.Ciotti@dover.nh.gov>

Chief Breault,

Thank you for sharing this information.
Glad to know the facts.
Deb Clough

May 28th, I emailed the City Council:

From: Deb Clough <clough.deb@gmail.com>

Subject: Dover Mounted Patrol

Date: May 28, 2020 at 9:51:14 AM EDT

To: Robert Carrier <R.Carrier@dover.nh.gov>, Michael Joyal <M.Joyal@dover.nh.gov>, William Breault <W.Breault@dover.nh.gov>, citycouncil-all@dover.nh.gov

Dear Mayor Carrier, City Manager Joyal, Chief Breault and City Councilors.

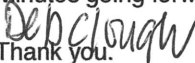
I am writing again to express my support for the return of Dover Mounted Patrol to downtown Dover. Those of you who know me, know that I am downtown and in surrounding areas like the Dover Community Trail a lot in various volunteer capacities, picking up litter and beautifying what I can. What I have witnessed since the program was

suspended is a dismaying increase in graffiti from buildings to a boat on an Adopt-A-Spot at Main & Portland, to fences and railings, to a cigarette butt—ler and beyond. Beyond being a unique, pleasant, calming influence, this patrol was approachable, friendly and watchful. To say I miss their presence is an understatement. Their purpose cannot be duplicated by an officer in a car. I implore you to bring DMP back. More than ever, what they bring to the community is needed. I have observed, many times, the way the presence of this patrol fosters a positive relationship between police and residents of all kinds.

Thank you.
Deb Clough
2 Towle Ave.
Dover, NH 03820
Dover Main Street - Beautification/Adopt-A-Spot
Solid Waste Advisory Commission

June 3rd, I spoke before the City Council in support of Dover Mounted Patrol
Those comments are recorded.

I look forward to seeing this letter attached to the Meeting Minutes for this, the June 24, 2020 City Council meeting, as well as all of the email and transcripts of voice mails received related to the Dover Mounted Patrol Workshop attached to the June 3rd workshop Meeting Minutes. Further, in the spirit of transparency, I respectfully request that a written transcript of all correspondence (whether in written letter, email or voice mail) is attached to all Meeting Minutes going forward.


Thank you.
Deb Clough
2 Towle Ave

