



**WAUWATOSA
PEACE
OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 13413 Wauwatosa, WI 53213

May 19, 2021

Mayor McBride,

We demand an explanation—and a public apology—for your blatant insult to our organization, its membership, and the officers of the Wauwatosa Police Department that you made during an interview with 620WTMJ on May 16, 2021.

Specifically, you told interviewer Libby Collins that morale is “good” at the Wauwatosa Police Department. Your claim does not resemble any truth whatsoever. Aside from your peculiar tone in uttering “good,” a recent one-sentence retirement speech made by one of our members speaks volumes against your claim: “I’d like to thank the Mayor, he made it very easy to leave.” In further contradiction to your remarks, a representative of the city-sanctioned CPSM study stated that morale among the Wauwatosa Police Department is among “the worst morale” they’ve seen. **Therefore, we demand to know the factual basis of your claim about “good” morale.**

Further, the incivility of your remarks are emblematic of your lack of leadership and the “support” for our membership and Wawautosa Police officers that you claimed to provide. Specifically, you stated “the police union is a problem”—and that one (Asian-American) police officer “was listening too much to the police union and drinking too much of their Kool Aid.”

As a reminder, a poll conducted last summer indicated that 100% of our membership felt you did NOT support them. And 99% affirmed they had “no confidence” in your leadership—partly because you supported terminating one of only four African-American police officers to “repair” the racist history of our city—in making a political move that you have failed to factually explain.

Our vote of “no confidence” reflects your failure to support, lead, and improve public safety in our community. We also demand that you explain how your attempts at “police reform” have actually failed to improve public safety: robberies have increased 116%; weapons offenses have increased 233%; and auto thefts have increased 606%, in comparing crime rates during January 1 to May 11 last year with the same timeframe this year.

As we have repeatedly said before, the citizens of Wauwatosa deserve better. And the time for you to *actually do* better is now long overdue. **Ironically, to stop morale from plummeting and help improve public safety, we await your explanation—and public apology—in the meantime.**

For the Board, John Milotzky