



**LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

STEVE CONRAD
CHIEF OF POLICE

September 3, 2019

Councilman Brandon Coan
601 West Jefferson Street
Louisville, Ky. 40202

Dear Councilman Coan:

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding the walking patrol program temporarily instituted this summer. I share your perspective regarding the benefits of this pilot program and would love to see it continue. In addition to the crime reduction and community impact cited in your letter, we know such programs instill strong communication and problem-solving skills in our officers, increase their understanding of fundamental issues leading to crime, and allow them to create mutual long-term relationships with residents which builds trust and legitimacy for our entire department. Of course, I would love to have the resources to continue, and even expand, this initiative throughout the entire city.

I respect your requests urging me to “find a way to keep it going” and have read the letters and emails from your constituents imploring the same. I also appreciate your acknowledgement of our “resource constraints” and have no doubt you understand the pains of cutting programs when you know people and relationships are bound to experience some negative consequences no matter what you decide. This is the unfortunate reality I currently face.

With the elimination of full academy classes and an increase in attrition, the size of our police department will be significantly reduced by this time next year. The new recruits we do hire must first be employed and trained, which takes nearly a year. This means the gap between services needed and services we can provide will only grow. Moving forward, we will do our best to prevent and control crime, but you must understand these cuts are already reducing our ability to offer services beyond response-oriented patrols, including the walking patrol program you wrote about. I am hopeful there will be the opportunity to identify new revenue sources which will provide for the needs of this department and these types of programs in the future.

Sincerely,

Steve Conrad
Chief of Police

Cc: Ellen Hesen, Deputy Mayor
Teresa Lajara, Metro Council Liaison
Jim Schorch, President Original Highlands Neighborhood Association
David Dowdell, President Cherokee Triangle Association
Kristen Millwood, President Tyler Park Neighborhood Association
Jeff Hughes, President Deer Park Neighborhood Association
Alison Cromer, President Bonnycastle Homestead Association
Aaron Givhan, President Highland Commerce Guild
Troy Burden, Executive Director Highlands Community Ministries
William Fowler (via electronic mail), Owner William Deans Salon