

John Long

From: Matt Lavalley <strangebuttrue@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2019 12:19 PM
To: City Clerk Contact; City Council
Subject: Fwd: SPD's role in the "Straight Pride Parade" 8/31/19

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt Lavalley** <strangebuttrue@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 7, 2019 at 12:13 PM
Subject: SPD's role in the "Straight Pride Parade" 8/31/19
To: <mayor@somervillema.gov>, Alderman Clingan <aldermanclingan@gmail.com>, Katjana Ballantyne <katjana@katjana.org>, Matt McLaughlin, Ward 1 Alderman <mattforward1@gmail.com>, Stephanie Hirsch <stephanie@stephaniehirsch.org>, <wmbah@somervillema.gov>, <mjrossetti@somervillema.gov>, william white <william.a.white@verizon.net>, <jtscott@somervillema.gov>, Ben Ewen-Campen <benforward3@gmail.com>, <mniedergang@somervillema.gov>, <lancedavisward6@gmail.com>
Cc: Jacob Kramer <jacobakramer@gmail.com>

Hello Mayor Curtatone, Councilor Clingan, and the rest of the City Council -

The following is a letter signed by 116 Somerville residents regarding the presence and conduct of our Police at the "Straight Pride Parade" last weekend. It's also addressed to Chief Fallon, but for whatever reason I couldn't find an email for him - maybe one of you could forward it? It's only fair, considering his actions (and those of his reporting officers) are the subject of the letter. We consider Chief Fallon's presence at the proposed hearing to be essential.

A few people asked for their full names to be abbreviated because they fear retaliation e.g. "doxxing". This is no joke - exposure of activists and protesters to harassment, via public documents such as this one, is now an everyday occurrence, and a person participating in this kind of civil discourse must carefully consider their level of exposure. On my honor I assure you that each and every signer of this letter is a real Somervillain who endorses its sentiment and demands.

Thank you for accepting this submission; I hope everybody is having a cool Saturday afternoon -

Matt Lavalley
28 Warren Avenue

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To the Chair of the Public Health and Public Safety Committee, The Somerville City Council, The Mayor of Somerville, and the Somerville Chief of Police,

We write to you in alarm and outrage. On Saturday, August 31st, the City of Boston played host to the so-called "Straight Pride Parade", which was a thinly-veiled white supremacist action organized by known fascists and homophobes. At the event, police officers used unprovoked force and chemical weapons on unarmed, peaceful civilians. Somerville Police were documented on camera participating in abuse of police power and intimidating marginalized members of our community. Our Police Department deliberately compromised public health and public safety, which is why we bring this matter before you.

Provocation by white supremacists is a well-documented tactic. Police are the tool they use to escalate this provocation to violence and achieve their goal of intimidation. The playbook is this: a small group of fascist agitators provoke their targets (in this case, LGBTQ people and their allies) while marshaling a large police force as

"protection". The police use any excuse (crowd size, chanting, walking in the street) to escalate, beat, detain, spray, or otherwise infringe on the civil rights of counter-demonstrators. In no case do police turn on the agitators, who are the cause of the disturbance. This is why the tactic works, has worked historically, and seems to have worked in the case of the Straight Pride Parade.

If Somerville Police are unaware of this tactic, this betrays poor training and leadership. They shouldn't be - the past century provides a wealth of examples. We will be happy to provide the history lesson. Or are they aware of it? Did Somerville Police officers participate knowing they would have the opportunity to abuse counter-demonstrators without consequence?

Why were Somerville Police present at this event in Boston? Were they present in Boston pursuant to a NEMLEC request? If so, their presence was authorized personally by Somerville Chief of Police. If that is the case, the public deserves a full accounting from Chief David Fallon. How could he use such poor judgment as to dispatch our own officers to protect fascists and beat us? How will the officers who participated in this violation of civil liberty be held accountable?

As Somerville residents, we call upon you to officially censure the officers involved in the Straight Pride Parade for contributing to a culture of fear and bringing dishonor upon our city. We demand a formal inquiry into the degree to which white supremacists and fascists have infiltrated our Police Department. Furthermore, we request a public hearing at which victims of police violence can testify before the Council, the Mayor, and the Chief of Police. Until this matter of public health and safety is resolved we demand a moratorium on NEMLEC "mutual aid" to neighboring police departments.

Matt Lavallee
Jacob Kramer, Ward 2
Penelope Taylor
Benjamin Bradlow
Daniel Madri

Jaclyn Pillitteri, Ward 2
Kevin O'Kelly
Mike Gintz
Toby M
Jessica Smith, Ward 5

Lauren Leone
Brittany Bradley
Derek Anderson
Evan Seitchik - Ward 5
Elizabeth G. - Ward 3

Daniel R. - Ward 6
Michael Allen
Mark G. - Ward 2
Julia K. - Ward 4
Joan Leib

Niraj Shah
Morgan Johnstone
Batya F. - Ward 5
Jessica F - Ward 5
Brian Eiermann

Daniel Richman
Bethany Shenise
Harlow Petrack
Stefanie N. - Ward 7
Lee Bloch

Nate Krinsky
Sian Gramates
Benjamin A - Ward 3
M. H. - Ward 7
H.I.

Rebecca Doris
Dan Saint-Pierre
Adam H
Wilfred Genest
Brian Postow

Kevin Monahan
Mike Schlegelmilch
Michael Anaya
Allison M. - Ward 2
Adaline Lining

Ben Nissan
Bethany Berkowitz
Ruth Roudiez
Charley Ferguson
Drew Flanagan

Zac Delagrang
Jennifer Hintz
Julie K. 02145
Nick Pettazzoni
Nora Maynard

Carly Nix
Erik S. - Ward 6
Jason Livingston
Denis Moskowitz
Shane *first name only*

Alex Feinstein
Gillian Rosen
Donald Cronin
Jef Czekaj
B. Nicholas Pasinella

Laura Evans
Ryan S. Decker
Kathryn Nova Reilly
Tim Barker
Stephen P. Huff

James O'Keefe
Jonathan Kindness
Tabitha Rohrer
Declan Geoffrion Scannell
Wes McEnany

Sidney K.
Robert M.
Dustin Doss

Fenna Krienen
Steph McGuiness

Keller McGuiness
Rachel Distler
Kat Ely
Kathryn Anderson, Ward 3
Patrick Cahn

Isaac Feitler
Sarah Ganzhorn
Ulysses Lateiner - Ward 6
K. A. Drinkwater
Julia Dahlin - Ward 4

Brendan S - Ward 2
Stephen Swift
Marie C. - Ward 1
Juliet Eldred - Ward 5
Christopher Warren - Ward 6

Hannah C. - Ward 6
Kristen F. - Ward 7
Lindsey Sudbury
Alexandra Gaines-Smith
Eliza M - Ward 2

Martin Pavlinic - Ward 7
John Fitzgerald
Chris Dwan
Chris Lay
Anna Callahan - Ward 7

Mike Shea
Gordon Marx, Ward 2
Melinda Green, Ward 2
Sara Sinback - Ward 3
Lilia Kilburn - Ward 2

Lucas Schaber - Ward 1
Kaitlyn Fitzgerald - Ward 1
Michael Webber - Ward 6
RJ D. - Ward 2
Miriam Roberts - Ward 3

Katie Meyer - Ward 1