

March 23, 2021

Police Chief Robert Kalamaras
Fairfield Police Department
100 Reef Rd
Fairfield, CT 06824

Dear Police Chief Kalamaras,

We write to you today as the Fairfield Equity Coalition (FEC). FEC is made up of current students and alumni of Fairfield Public Schools and works alongside the parents, educators, and leaders of Fairfield. We advocate for equity in education through the promotion of anti-racism and cultural competency while raising awareness for marginalized populations in our community. As a group, we seek collaboration with local organizations and institutions and call for transparent communication between all parties. We write this letter as an invitation to collaborate with us.

Our systems of institutional racism are real and pervasive and affect all of us. For communities of Black and Brown people, this all too often results in racial profiling, higher rates of incarceration, and, in the most tragic cases, the senseless loss of too many lives. The stakes are high and the need is immediate. We know that we can change these systems and avoid these tragedies. We can, and we must.

We are encouraged by the Police Accountability Bill (HB 6004) that was signed into law by Governor Lamont in July 2020 and want to stress the importance of putting these words into action.

In particular:

- We call for the police department of Fairfield to increase the allocated hours for anti-bias, antiracism, and culturally competent training as outlined in the Police Accountability Bill (HB 6004). We must stop criminalizing the human conditions of poverty, drug addiction, and race. It is our belief that the lack of training in these areas leaves the department susceptible to inflicting catastrophic harm upon the people and the community.
- We support the effort to make available psychological and other mental health resources for officers under the Behavior Assessment clause. We believe that this type of professional development and support addresses the particular stresses of police work and will result in safer and healthier communities.
- We recognize that the work is both within the department and within the community. We encourage the department to meet with and to listen to what the community is saying to truly maintain public order and safety. The community must recognize, too, how it has misused law enforcement. We envision a community-oriented approach to maintaining the wellbeing of the community, beginning but not limited to the Civil Review Board and the Police Accountability and Transparency Task Force.

This is an appeal to you, by concerned citizens of your community, to work with us to restore a sense of peace, trust, and justice. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Fairfield Equity Coalition