



STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW
ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER

December 3, 2020

Chief James P. Stauffiger
Town of Tonawanda Police Department
1835 Sheridan Drive
Kenmore, NY 14223

Dear Chief Stauffiger,

The difficult times and troubling circumstances law enforcement face every day in this unfortunate era of “defund the police” became alarmingly worse at the county level.

Just now, the Erie County Legislature Majority Caucus, including Legislator Kevin R. Hardwick, voted to defund nine Corrections Officers in the Erie County Sheriff’s Office. Prior to this vote radical progressive Legislators like Mr. Hardwick engaged in mere rhetoric about cutting law enforcement. Now he and his colleagues have acted to cut cops.

Adding insult to injury, Legislators voted to raise taxes, increase government spending, and gave only members of their own Majority Caucus almost \$4 million in pork money. Let that sink in to the brave men and women that protect and serve. Politicians at the county level defunded police. In the same budget, they voted to give themselves \$4 million in pork money. This is despicable. It is a slap in the face to police officers, their families and supporters of law enforcement.

Your job is incredibly challenging to begin with, especially with Legislators like Mr. Hardwick now voting to defund police. Officers risk their lives to protect our community and family. Law enforcement stands between law abiding citizens and those who desire chaos. We owe you a debt of gratitude.

Never forget that Legislator Hardwick and his fellow radical progressives are the political party of Black Lives Matter, defund police and they fully support rioters that attacked cops and burnt down businesses. The saying “what you do speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you say” rings true here. It is an unfortunate fact that the Erie County Legislature voted to defund police, cut law enforcement, raised taxes, increased government spending all while approving almost \$4 million in pork barrel spending for them.

I also wanted to let you know that I am calling for the elimination of almost \$4 million in pork barrel spending, with that revenue going towards restoring as many law enforcement officers back on the payroll as soon as possible.

If there is any way I can help your officers or police department, do not hesitate to contact me. I pledge my support to you and all members of law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Stefan I. Mychajliw, Jr.
Erie County Comptroller