

From: **Gardner, Curtis** <cgardner@auroragov.org>

Date: Wed, Jun 24, 2020 at 2:35 PM

Subject: Re: Letter to Aurora City Manager

To: Hiltz, Allison <ahiltz@auroragov.org>, Gardner, Curtis <cgardner@auroragov.org>, Lawson, Angela <alawson@auroragov.org>

Good Afternoon

On behalf of the Public Safety, Courts & Civil Service Commission Policy Committee of the Aurora City Council, I am forwarding text of a letter we submitted this afternoon to Jim Twombly, Aurora City Manager, concerning an independent, 3rd party investigation into the Elijah McClain case.

Earlier this month, we asked you to open an independent investigation into the death of Elijah McClain. We asked for a neutral 3rd party to conduct the investigation for two reasons. First, it was important to us that the case was looked at from an outside perspective. Second, and more importantly, it was important to us that report be used to begin healing and restoring trust in our community.

After we were informed of the individual you had selected, he didn't meet that standard of neutrality. While he is certainly an accomplished attorney after a long career in law enforcement, we didn't feel that his review would meet what the community wanted.

While some might have misinterpreted that as anti-law enforcement, it wasn't. It was merely an acknowledgement that neutrality is a key component of an independent investigation of this type.

Over the last several days, we have received thousands of contacts from all over the country – phone calls, text messages, emails and social media tags. The community has made clear they support our call for an independent investigation.

While we recognize the need to make the right choice, we also feel like time is of the essence. As elected leaders, one responsibility we have is to be representative of the community. And while we need to make the right choice, we also need to move forward in an expeditious manner. Trust is already eroded – delaying action will only cause further strain in our community.

This letter is to serve as a request for a formal discussion & presentation at our July 16, 2020 Public Safety, Courts & Civil Service Commission meeting regarding your recommendations for individuals that will be able to complete the investigation into Elijah McClain's death. At the conclusion of that meeting, we'd like for your final recommendation to be on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Aurora City Council for a formal vote.

To us, it is important that this investigation bring forward the facts about what transpired on the night of August 24, 2019. As we have heard loud and clear – this will help to restore trust and repair the frayed relationship between the community and the City of Aurora.

Allison H. Hiltz, Chair

Curtis E. Gardner, Vice Chair

Angela Lawson, Member

Aurora City Council Public Safety, Courts & Civil Service Commission Policy Committee