



June 3, 2020

Dear Citizens of Allen County,

I read Mayor Dave Berger's media release today and I feel obligated to respond even though I have discussed this issue with the media and others many times in the past. I am not interested in engaging Dave Berger in a public debate; however, I am frustrated by the fact that he has never personally engaged myself or any of my staff regarding body cameras even though he supposedly believes that they are vitally important. Instead, he chose to make his opinion of my office's operations known in an open letter to the media. Over the past two years my office has spent over a quarter of a million dollars upgrading dilapidated in-car and in-house video as well as audio equipment that we were stuck with from previous administrations. Above and beyond the exorbitant costs of operating a body camera system is the fact that legislators still have not closed all loopholes in the body camera public records law that jeopardizes citizen's most basic rights to privacy. For example, if an officer confronts a burglar in your home and any level of force is used the video and your personal residence is no longer exempt from public release. This is just one basic example of the flaws contained within this law. As most organizations, public service agencies, and the media are aware, my office is always open to discussion and we remain committed to the highest levels of transparency that the public has ever seen from this office. Annually my office receives very few complaints regarding excessive use of force by patrol deputies and in the rare occurrence that these complaints are received, we vigorously investigate those complaints. I will not allow Dave Berger to bully this office into making a decision, that we have determined to ultimately be a poor decision for all citizens of Allen County, as he attempts to exploit the horrendous death of George Floyd for his own agenda. I would strongly recommend that Dave Berger place his attention primarily on the disgusting and disturbing violent crime plaguing this city, including the devastating homicide rate that is looking dangerously close to breaking an annual record. Families are being ripped apart by the violent crime in this community and it has nothing to do with body cameras and everything to do with leadership!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew B. Treglia". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Matthew B. Treglia, Sheriff