



CITY OF SOUTH BEND
PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 25, 2013

Council Member Karen L. White
Health and Public Safety Chairperson
South Bend Common Council
441 County-City Building
227 W. Jefferson Boulevard
South Bend, IN 46601

Dear Council Member White:

I am writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Health and Public Safety Committee of the Common Council, in order to update you on a matter involving the Police Department that was raised in a Council meeting under Privilege of the Floor.

I have reviewed the factual information collected by the Indiana State Police, provided to me through the Board of Public Safety in order to follow up on a resident's complaint suggesting that proper procedure may not have been followed during an incident at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in South Bend. The report was compiled by the State Police in order to provide me with a researched fact base to use when making a determination about what, if any, administrative response is appropriate toward one of my appointees, Police Chief Ron Teachman.

As always, decisions concerning direct appointments rest solely with the Office of the Mayor. That said, I appreciate the members of the Board of Public Safety taking time to review the report and offer their own perspectives on how best to proceed.

After reviewing the confidential report, I concur with a majority of Board members that no disciplinary action is warranted. The State Police review, which was conducted approximately three months after the incident, gathered the recollections of several different persons who were present at the King Center when an officer stepped outside to address an altercation while Chief Teachman was inside the building. Across the varying recollections of the interviewees, in my judgment the accounts of the incident contained in the report make clear that there was no wrongful neglect of the Police Duty Manual's

requirements on backing up a fellow officer requesting help, and no administrative action is warranted.

This episode does present an opportunity to communicate and reinforce the extremely high standards that I expect from all members of our Police Department. After Chief Teachman and I discussed the situation, we agreed that he could use this as a teaching moment within the Department, and he has offered to speak with rank-and-file officers in the coming weeks about ways to ensure that officers continually seek ways to go above and beyond the requirements of the law and the duty manual.

Chief Teachman has my full confidence as our community's top law enforcement officer, and I continue to expect that he, and every officer reporting to him, will set an example for all residents in the community to follow.

I appreciate the effort and help of all who were involved in reviewing this matter so that it could be properly assessed and brought to closure.

Sincerely,



Pete Buttigieg, Mayor
City of South Bend

cc: South Bend Common Council
Office of the City Clerk
South Bend Board of Public Safety
Ron Teachman, South Bend Chief of Police