



CITY OF UTICA

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Joseph A. Marino
Councilman 4th District

Mayor Palmieri,

I believe enough, is well enough. It is beyond time that I ask you to immediately start a search for a professional public safety commissioner.

In light of the numerous law suits and decisions you have made to the detriment of our public safety divisions, in your role as Public Safety Commissioner, I implore you to step aside and let someone with qualifications, education, training and real experience guide these departments.

With you serving in this dual capacity, you are actually costing our city money and opening us up to very expensive litigation and liability that we simply cannot afford.

My suggestion would be to have this trained professional have extensive experience and training in law enforcement and be well respected by their peers. Further this candidate should possess a working knowledge of investigatory techniques and be versed in our police and fire code of conduct. To insulate this person from political pressures, I suggest and hope that the Common Council's public safety committee have direct input in the search.

Even if these events are the result of simply not knowing any better because of no training or expertise, and aren't the political games they appear to be at every turn, the same still holds true. A public safety commissioner would be able to effectively and qualifiedly help to stop the issues that are piling up.

I vehemently disagree with the fact that you are in complete control of the investigation by having our own police officers investigate their colleagues in public safety and the rest of the city. This gives a terrible impression that there is no true, objective investigations. This has led to animosity and could even lead to the perception of you directing the entire chain of events on disciplinary hearings.

Inside the departments currently, there is zero teamwork between units, low morale and no place for our rank and file members to turn for guidance or support. These men and women, who protect our neighborhoods daily, deserve better. Quite frankly the City of Utica deserves better.

So because of this, I am requesting that you take the proper steps to partner with other agencies with independence to conduct any and all investigations, while leaving that to the direction of our legal team in corporation counsel, where you took it from and it belongs now.

Never has the competition been greater among municipalities to hire the very best candidates to the police and fire departments. I hope you agree that the citizens of the City of Utica deserve the very best candidates. How can we expect these brave young men and women to truly want to continue to live in or move to the city for positions in agencies that appear to be in disarray. As I said, we all deserve better.

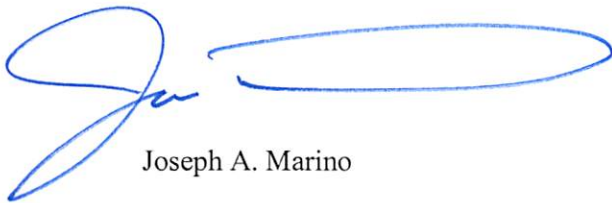
So, please, take the advice of so many, not just me, and go out and give our amazing public safety employees and the City a qualified Commissioner to run two of our most important departments.

Paraphrasing an important quote from the Greek Philosopher Plato, the wisest man alive knows that he doesn't know everything. That has been sound advice for thousands of years and certainly applies to today.

In the interest of the greater good of the City and our employees, I would like to put our differences aside and offer my assistance in finding the financial resources to fund this crucial position now, to save the taxpayers' money in the long run. This issue is too important.

I look forward to your response.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, horizontal oval shape.

Joseph A. Marino