

## Mesches, Sue

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**From:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** Mesches, Sue  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Police Reform ReEnvision Collaborative Report Letter  
**Attachments:** SRO Letter - Feb 2021 copy.docx; ATT00001.txt

Elisa Tinti  
City Clerk and Registrar  
City of Kingston

(845) 334-3914 Office  
(845) 334-3918 Fax

Kingston City Clerk Webpage

-----Original Message-----

From: Tinti, Elisa  
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:26 AM  
To: Shaut, Andrea <[ashaut@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:ashaut@kingston-ny.gov)>; Alderman <[Alderman@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:Alderman@kingston-ny.gov)>  
Cc: JEAN JACOBS <[sweetshope@aol.com](mailto:sweetshope@aol.com)>  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Police Reform ReEnvision Collaborative Report Letter

Elisa Tinti  
City Clerk and Registrar  
City of Kingston

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Kingston City Clerk Webpage

-----Original Message-----

From: JEAN JACOBS [<mailto:sweetshope@aol.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:31 AM  
To: Shaut, Andrea <[ashaut@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:ashaut@kingston-ny.gov)>; [Aldermen@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:Aldermen@kingston-ny.gov)  
Cc: Tinti, Elisa <[emtinti@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:emtinti@kingston-ny.gov)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Police Reform ReEnvision Collaborative Report Letter

Good Morning Everyone:

I am forwarding a copy of the letter in Support of the SRO's, which I read at the 2/11/21 Public Hearing for Cheryl Volpert, a Guidance Counselor, at JWB, who was unavailable that evening.

I spent many years at the JWB Middle School and in the KCSD, which has had a most profound, exceptional and lasting impact on my life.

Thank you for your professional time in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Jean C. Jacobs

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February 10, 2021

To Whom it may concern,

I have been a Guidance/School Counselor at Bailey Middle School for 12 years. Prior to that, I held the same role at Kingston High School for 2.5 years and Miller for one year. I love my job and I love "my kids". I also want to do right by them and advocate to the best of my ability not only for them but for their families, teachers, and my colleagues. I am writing this because I feel like it is the right thing to do to advocate to keep School Resource Officers in our schools. I can only speak to my experiences with the SRO's I have personally worked with whom I respect and appreciate very much. They have protected me and the school community while also going above and beyond. It is difficult to convey the true impact they have made on my student's lives without divulging too much personal information. Here are some examples of how SRO's have helped our students:

1. Home visits/check-ins on students at their homes because I am worried about them being alone – not unsafe – just need someone to show they are looking out for them.
2. Educating students about the dangers of social media and the repercussions that can come of it. I worked side by side with an SRO who tirelessly explained this to several of my students individually, as it pertained to each of them personally.
3. Keeping an extra eye on students who I think might be getting bullied during recess, in the hallways, etc. when I cannot be there.
4. Providing me information about community/family/student situations that I may not know about so I can keep an extra eye out for the emotional well-being of my students.
5. Raising thousands of dollars so kids can go to see a Mets, Yankees, or Globetrotters game...and giving them a special shirt and snacks to go along with it.
6. .Playing in basketball, dodgeball, etc. games to show students they can have a good time. Plus, raising money while doing so to provide funds for college scholarships for our KHS students.
7. Bringing necessary supplies (food, meds, clothing, etc.) to the homes of families in need who either can't afford it and/or don't have the transportation to acquire it themselves.
8. Giving students a ride home because they had an anxiety attack at school.
9. Chasing kids who may run out of classrooms or out of the building who are having a tough time in school and just feel like they need to escape ....and then de-escalating them by having a heart to heart conversation and bringing them back into the building.
10. Going to the hospital with a student and/or staff member.

11. Directing traffic outside the schools every morning to keep all pedestrians, buses, parents dropping off their kids, etc. safe.
12. Providing insight into the law when we need help with deciphering the best way to help our students learn from their mistakes.

School Resource Officers are the eyes, ears, and hearts that I (or other school staff members) cannot be sometimes. They not only keep our students safe but equally important are an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on. They are role models to our students and another adult in our school buildings to rely on.

Sincerely,

Cherelyn Volpert

## Mesches, Sue

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**From:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Mesches, Sue  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] SRO comments

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stephanie Kresser <[SKresser@kingstoncityschools.org](mailto:SKresser@kingstoncityschools.org)>  
**Date:** February 17, 2021 at 10:22:29 AM EST  
**To:** "Tinti, Elisa" <[emtinti@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:emtinti@kingston-ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] SRO comments

To the Common Council :

I am writing to express my thoughts about the agenda regarding having SROs in the school. I am the Attendance Social Worker for Bailey and Miller Middle School. Every day I am on the streets of Kingston and in the middle schools engaged with the children. I have ONLY seen positive relationships between our students and the SROs. Even when there were situations when the SROs had to be present for the safety of everyone, I have seen the students express a working relationship with the SRO, often times with the student saying "yes, I am sorry, I shouldn't have done that." I have seen the SRO then talking to the student in a positive manner stating how saying "how it takes a big man to say sorry, and he knows he (the student) can do better next time." I have NEVER seen a child traumatized at the hands of the SRO.

I have to tell you before this position I worked for Child Protection as a Family Assessment Response Caseworker. In this position I spoke with many families who had issues in the community and in the school. I have never walked away from a CPS case thinking that the SRO was at fault, or caused any harm or undo stress to the child. If anything, again I have always seen a positive relationship.

As a social worker in the school system, I need the SROs. There are many times when the mental health of the children is not being taken care of appropriately by the parents and I am charged with working with a mentally unstable child that may be out of control. I am a woman that would not be able to handle the aggressive tendencies of a mentally unstable large male student alone, which has happened. I know that it is VERY possible that I would have been hurt had the presence of the SRO not been in the area.

As a social worker, a mother, a resident of Ulster County I urge the Common Council to decline the report of the SRO stating that the SROs are traumatizing to the children. I urge the Common Council to work with the community to unite the SROs and law enforcement with our

residents instead of splitting them apart. We all want the same thing, a safe, nurturing environment for our children and families to grow and thrive.

Thank you ,

Stephanie Kresser, LMSW

Attendance Social Worker

JWB/MCM Middle Schools

845-943-3606 Bailey / 845-943-3667 Miller

*Have you considered being a MAJOR in Mentor Me's army of MENTORS?*

*Mentor Me of Ulster County, every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential*

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## Mesches, Sue

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**From:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:40 AM  
**To:** Mesches, Sue  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Police Reform ReEnvision Collaborative Report Letter  
**Attachments:** SRO Letter - Feb 2021 copy.docx

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** JEAN JACOBS <[sweetshope@aol.com](mailto:sweetshope@aol.com)>  
**Date:** February 17, 2021 at 10:30:45 AM EST  
**To:** "Shaut, Andrea" <[ashaut@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:ashaut@kingston-ny.gov)>, [Aldermen@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:Aldermen@kingston-ny.gov)  
**Cc:** "Tinti, Elisa" <[emtinti@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:emtinti@kingston-ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Police Reform ReEnvision Collaborative Report Letter

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Sent from my iPad





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**Cc:** "Tinti, Elisa" <[emtinti@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:emtinti@kingston-ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] **Police Reform ReEnvision Collaborative Report Letter**

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**From:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** Mesches, Sue  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] SRO Letter/Comments  
**Attachments:** SRO Letter.docx

*Elisa Tinti*

City Clerk and Registrar  
City of Kingston

(845) 334-3914 Office  
(845) 334-3918 Fax

[Kingston City Clerk Webpage](#)



**From:** [kyshea134@aol.com](mailto:kyshea134@aol.com) [mailto:[kyshea134@aol.com](mailto:kyshea134@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:54 AM  
**To:** Tinti, Elisa <[emtinti@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:emtinti@kingston-ny.gov)>; [val.dwyer@arold.us](mailto:val.dwyer@arold.us)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] SRO Letter/Comments

Good Morning Ladies,

As per your request, attached are my comments in regards to the School Resource officers so that Elisa can enter them into public record. If you have any questions or need anything additional please do not hesitate to reach out to me, and I ask that you please confirm receipt so I know you have received this. Thank you.

Best Regards,  
Kyla Thomas  
8945-399-9542

*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.*



Good evening and thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Kyla Thomas and I currently have a 15-year-old in 10th grade attending KHS. I am a graduate of KHS myself, a lifelong resident of the area and currently live in the town of Ulster. I have seen it change for both the better and for the worst. Unfortunately, we cannot keep hoping for the better to always present itself, however we can take certain steps to maintain the safety of everyone specifically all of those on our school grounds on a daily basis.

School resource officers have been present now at our schools for several years and I know firsthand it has and will continue to be a huge asset for our schools. The benefits are abundant but the ones that I feel may stand out the most are as follows...

There is an increased perception of safety by school administrators, teachers, staff, and students. It helps the school to achieve their full potential if the schools are safe and feel safe. Students feel safe, are more productive, and engaged. The same goes for the teachers. The school resource officers are not meant to scare the kids but however someone who the kids look up to for advice, support, safety along with someone they can depend on. By this happening, the kids feel that the school resource officers are approachable, and they can confide in them to discuss any issues whether in school or even at home. Think about it, if the officer were not there to talk to, the chances the kid would pick up the phone to call the police would be slim to none.

Having a school resource officer at the schools helps in improved police call response time and faster medical help if needed. Why would we ever want to decrease the response time in the event of an unforeseen situation. These are our children, and we need to protect them and keep them safe.

School resource officers may from time to time have to conduct a criminal investigation because the student had their cell phone taken or they were possibly struck by another student during a fight but if there is a resolution available the school resource officer can entertain that. Again, it is about interacting with students and the student feeling comfortable talking to the school resource officer regardless of the reason. They are young adults looking for a good direction.

Police officers are trained for various situations and are taught to always be observant for potential threats or actions they would generate cause for concern. Let them be another set of eyes while our dedicated teachers do what they do best and that is teach. Without school resource officers it would make our schools very vulnerable.

So, in conclusion, the benefits of having school resource officers in our schools goes beyond reducing violence. I am completely against the removal of them from our schools and our children's lives. We need to as adults set aside our personal opinions of police officers and focus on the main goal of safety for our current and future students, our children. I cannot even fathom why anyone could or would even suggest the removal of school resource officers.....community policing begins here.

