

Agoranos, Karen

From: Juracek, Arlene
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Cassidy, Michael; Agoranos, Karen
Subject: Fw: Blue Lives Matter imagery

I will put this in the email comment bucket, not a citizen to be heard bucket. That means it will be summarized at the meeting, rather than being read verbatim.

From: Rachael Rothrauff
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Juracek, Arlene; Hoefert, Paul; Saccotelli, Colleen; Grossi, William; Hatzis, Eleni
Cc: Zadel, Michael; Rogers, Richard
Subject: Blue Lives Matter imagery
Dear Mayor Juracek and Trustees--

Thank you for your continued hard work during these unprecedented times. I look forward to someday soon when we can be back in the same room, solving all of the interesting issues that come up at Coffee with Council.

In the meantime, I would like to add my two cents to the ongoing debate regarding Blue Lives Matter imagery on our village's police uniforms. I understand that the original image of the Thin Blue Line holds a special significance for our law enforcement officers. It saddens me greatly that that image has been taken, twisted and co-opted by white supremacist organizations, such as the ones present in Charlottesville in 2017 and at the Capitol riots earlier this year. Unfortunately, the Blue Lives Matter imagery on the American flag represents something very different and threatening to a large portion of our community.

I know that our Mount Prospect police department seeks to protect and serve ALL Mount Prospect citizens. However with the current symbolism on each of their uniforms, it is making their job more difficult as it contributes to a lack of trust and unity within our village population. In my opinion, now is the time to take a stand against any possible misunderstanding of what our department represents and officially remove the Blue Lives Matter imagery from our police logo.

We, as a village, have already taken steps to be a more inclusive and welcoming place, some of which I have had the privilege of being a part of. We must embrace this current decision as an opportunity to once again show that our actions support our words. Please vote to remove the Blue Lives Matter imagery from our police logo.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Rachael Rothrauff

Agoranos, Karen

From: Juracek, Arlene
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Agoranos, Karen; Cassady, Michael
Subject: Fwd: BHM Proclamation + Blue Lives Matter Police Symbol

Not a citizens to be heard, explicitly. But I will catalogue it in my summary of emails received.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jennifer Ciok
Date: February 1, 2021 at 8:57:12 AM CST
To: "Juracek, Arlene"
Subject: **BHM Proclamation + Blue Lives Matter Police Symbol**

Mayor Juracek,

Good morning. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give feedback on the Black History Month Proclamation. I'm interested to see how it has shifted and changed with my feedback and the feedback of others (especially people of color) from the community and how we live out that proclamation moving forward. On that note, I do have a concern for tomorrow's meeting and for our community in general.

Tomorrow you are going to give this proclamation and I assume someone from the community is going to receive it. Then, in the next section, there are going to be community comments, many centering on the chosen symbol by our police department, one that has been seen flying high next to confederate flags, Nazi flags and with other white supremacist groups. A flag that makes people, especially people of color, fearful to come and live and shop and work in the community. And one, that just a couple of years ago, according to the article from January 27, 2021, the Village seemed to understand is not something that should represent our community. The article states, "It isn't the first time that residents have expressed their concerns of the village using the symbol. Previously, the village had to redesign it's 2019-2020 vehicle sticker after controversy surrounded the original design. At the time, Village Manger Mike Cassady said that the village became aware of that using that design would threaten the trust that the police department has built with the community."

But now, after seeing the flag at the Capitol being carried by domestic terrorists and watching as many police departments, including Madison and Niles, have begun to distance themselves from this symbol saying, "the flag has been "co-opted" by extremists with "hateful ideologies." She (Roman) said her department needs to distance itself from thin blue line imagery to build trust with the community. 'We must consider the cost of clinging to a symbol that is undeniably and inextricably linked to actions and beliefs antithetical to UWPD's values,' she said in the Jan. 15 email," our village seems to be doubling down on either keeping it or not having a real conversation about what this symbol represents.

As a fellow white woman, I worry that your proclamation will be seen as performative and an act of tokenism without real action around this symbol and so many other things in our community. I believe that we can move forward, but it's going to take an act of courage and conversation and true action. I know you are almost done as Mayor, but you are not done as a community member or a citizen of this country. It's time to have courage and say that we need to do something to bring true equity, inclusion and understanding.

Jennifer Ciok

Agoranos, Karen

From: Juracek, Arlene
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Cassady, Michael; Agoranos, Karen
Subject: Fwd: Blue Lives Matter Logo

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: K Miklusak
Date: January 31, 2021 at 2:23:19 PM CST
To: "Juracek, Arlene" , "Hoefert, Paul" , "Grossi, William" , "Hatzis, Eleni" , "Zadel, Michael" , "Rogers, Richard" , "Saccotelli, Colleen"
Subject: **Blue Lives Matter Logo**

Dear Mount Prospect Board Trustees,

I am writing to support the **removal** of thin blue line images from Mount Prospect police uniforms, vehicles, and buildings. My belief in this is NOT against our police. I support our police force and the work they are doing. My cousin is a chief of police in suburban Philadelphia; several members of my family have served and continue to serve in the armed forces. This belief in removing the imagery is a separate point and should not be simplified and dismissed as "anti-police sentiments."

If police officers and their families and community members choose to support the imagery, no one is saying that they cannot personally display these images. However, it is a divisive point for publicly funded services. It sends the wrong message to our community that claims to welcome diversity. If we care so much about the image, we should work to repair the image itself rather than force it on to people and tell them not to be so sensitive. The divide over this issue is causing the harm, and holding fast to a decision to support this thin blue line is only pushing the divide further.

As public employees, teachers are told images and slogans they cannot wear so as not to create a political environment and welcome all students. The police force should be no different. We need to actually be--**and** appear to be--welcoming and supportive without being divisive.

Thank you,
Kim Miklusak
Mount Prospect Resident

Agoranos, Karen

From: Juracek, Arlene
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Agoranos, Karen; Hoefert, Paul
Subject: Fwd: I stand with the Village use of the Thin Blue Line flag and I will continue to do so

Karen, forwarding for your records. Paul, he forgot to include you.
This is not drafted as a citizens to be heard comment but will be summarized in the informational emails received bucket.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: James Zalinski
Date: January 29, 2021 at 3:14:47 PM CST
To: "Juracek, Arlene"
Cc: "Grossi, William" , "Hatzis, Eleni" , "Zadel, Michael" , "Rogers, Richard" , "Saccotelli, Colleen"
Subject: **I stand with the Village use of the Thin Blue Line flag and I will continue to do so**

Mayor Juracek,

I am contacting you in support of the usage of the Thin Blue Line flag for our police department. I come from a Police family and I know the dedication and pride that comes from an officer whose only job is to serve the community. We as a village, government and community should not bend to the whims of a very small group of people who have now found this symbol offensive. The issue is what would be the next symbol they would find offensive? The American flag? Police in general? I understand that we are off the map with the events of the last year with the pandemic, election and social unrest. However, one of the few constants we have is our police department helping maintain order in all this chaos. I am not alone in this matter. I and countless others feel this way. Certain people only look for hate and unfortunately for them that's all they are ever going to see. I stand with the Village use of the Thin Blue Line flag and I will continue to do so.

Thanks,

-Jim Zalinski

Agoranos, Karen

From: john bongiovanni
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Agoranos, Karen
Subject: Keep blue thin line

I wish to keep thin blue line and do not see anything wrong with Stop the politics Sent from my iPhone

***Please submit at least one hour prior to the meeting start time**

What meeting are you interested in?

***1. Select from the following:**

Village Board

Please complete the form and submit one hour prior to the meeting start time.

2. What is your first and last name?

Don Evangelista

3. Where can we email a response if we are unable to address your question or comment during the meeting?

4. What is your question or comment?

I am a resident of Mt Prospect and spent 35 yrs in law enforcement, 30 yrs in Chicago. I was on the job when we were called pigs and other derogatory names . May of us adopted the the Pig name and made it stand for Pride, Integrity, Guts. It boosted our moral. I see now that some want to remove the blue line from the MPPD shoulder patch, because they're offended. Todays' police are being targeted and harmed at and alarming rate. I pray the MP board will show its' support for the MPPD.

5. What is your phone number?

6. Do you have a preferred contact method?

Please reply by email address

***Please submit at least one hour prior to the meeting start time**

What meeting are you interested in?

***1. Select from the following:**

Village Board

Please complete the form and submit one hour prior to the meeting start time.

2. What is your first and last name?

Joseph Plata

3. Where can we email a response if we are unable to address your question or comment during the meeting?

4. What is your question or comment?

I won't claim that Mt Prospect is run by white nationalists, but am dumbfounded that this police patch continues to be an issue. I gave you the benefit of the doubt in 2018 when you claimed ignorance and forced every resident to place it on their windshield. Three years has passed and still you are promoting it, ignoring dozens of violent events by groups carrying that Blue Lives Matter flag. Maybe the village isn't run by white nationalists, but you sure do make decisions as if it was were.

5. What is your phone number?

6. Do you have a preferred contact method?

Please reply by email address

Agoranos, Karen

From: Hatzis, Eleni
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Agoranos, Karen
Subject: Fwd: Recent objection to the Blue Line on the Police Shield

Hi Karen,

This resident would like this email to be read as public comment at our next board meeting .

Thank you!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note20 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Jasper Pitrello
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 6:59:16 AM
To: ajuracek@mountprospect.org ; phoefert@mountprospect.org ; wgrossi@mountprospect.org ; ehatzis@mountprospect.org ; mzadel@mountprospect.org ; rrogers@mountprospect.org ; csaccotelli@mountprospect.org
Subject: Recent objection to the Blue Line on the Police Shield

Good Morning all,

I am emailing you today as a new resident of Mount Prospect and a lifelong Chicago resident. I have heard that very recently several residents had complained about the blue line on the Police badge being a "symbol of white supremacy" or "racist". This in itself in my opinion is completely Ludacris and without merit. I and most every resident fully Back and support the law enforcement community, other than the military no other job requires an individual to put themselves in harms way each and every day with the possibility that the next interaction can put them in grave danger. I believe that the opposition to the "blue line" is misdirected, microscopic in view and just a way of virtue signaling. I firmly express my opinion as well as I know the overwhelming majority of residents support our government and law enforcement! It would be my pleasure to speak about this topic or express support in any way for our community to put this topic to rest. Thank you for your time and God Bless our people and this Great Nation!

Thank You,
Jasper Pitrello

Jarosz, Doreen

From: Evans, Margaret
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 9:07 AM
To: VMO
Subject: blue line

Symbols are used to promote unity, show pride, promote a higher ideal.....the US flag the ultimate symbol of this country was specifically designed to unite all 50 states. The confederate flag served that purpose for our southern states. For most of my entire life ive heard the confederate flag isn't a symbol of racism, just people showing pride in being a southerner... but examine its history. At its core, it was the symbol of states that wanted slavery to remain legal. And after the civil war politicians had to figure out a way to keep the United States together, so concessions were made to appease the South. We ended up with segregation, Jim Crow laws, among other things, and that confederate flag remained in various forms on some southern state flags.

So why the brief history lesson. Because the public has opened its eyes. People who previously thought there was no harm in that confederate flag now see it from the eyes of other people who see it as a symbol of pre civil war slave states and racism

The thin blue line. A symbol of Unity, Pride in the profession of policing, mourning brave souls who lost their lives defending the citizens they serve. This symbol has been co-opted by hate groups. But it also has been co-opted by groups in support of the police. It has been co-opted by groups who oppose BLM. It has become a symbol of a division.

We could continue to promote the blue line goodness, but the symbol has been corrupted, tainted, stained. The cross has been around for thousands of years and it can bear a negative spin by some. The US flag is at the core of this country. Its been beaten but in the end it to will bear the negativity. The blue line is a young symbol that has been corrupted and in my opinion will not be able to withstand the negative stain it now has.

The police are not an entity onto themselves. They exist at the will of the people. We are funded by the public. The social movement for change is not going away. Instead of fighting to keep the blue line symbol, a corrupted symbol, remove it from publicly funded institutions...just like the confederate flag is being removed all over the south. Lets not wait for time to pass, waiting for the day we see it from the eyes of others.

Margaret Evans

Jarosz, Doreen

From: Weger, Mark
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 7:22 AM
To: VMO
Subject: Police Patch

Mr. Cassidy,

I am writing to provide my feedback on the current department patch. I appreciate your words of support and know that you are in our corner regardless of the outcome.

I personally support the patch 100%. The heraldry of the patch is quite clear in my opinion:

- The shield shape represents our willingness to defend those in need, much like the knights of old.
- The star represents excellence in our profession as well as our duty to the community.
- The year "1917" indicates over 100 years of dedication to our community.
- The state outline and flag represent our further duty to our state and country.
- The blue line stand for the thin line between order and chaos while recognizing those who gave their lives in our profession

I have worn many different patches in my life ranging from different units of assignment in the military to the NIPAS EST patch as well as two different patches for the MPPD. I have always been proud to wear these patches and this one is no exception. It is truly upsetting that the flag's appearance at such vile events as white supremacists marches has tainted what is a symbol for law, order, and remembrance all rolled into one.

I have been with this department for almost 25 years and I have weathered the storm of public distrust and disappointment in the past. Even though our agency was eventually exonerated, the stigma was on us for many years for some residents. It has taken a concerted effort on our part to win back the village's trust as a whole. I believe that our agency's professionalism and dedication to the Village of Mount Prospect should provide a sense of comfort to our residents, regardless of what patch we wear on our uniforms, and I believe that to be the case for a vast majority of our residents

It is my sincere hope that the few residents who take offense to this symbol of professionalism do not cause this patch to be removed from our uniforms, headquarters and associated items.

If any more information is needed, please contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Commander Mark Weger

Jarosz, Doreen

From: Cannon, Ryan
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 3:44 AM
To: VMO
Subject: Thin Blue Line Police Patch

To whom it may concern,

I have been a Police Officer with the Village of Mount Prospect for a little over two years now and was previously employed with the Village as a community service officer for approximately two years. During this time of my employment with the police department I was community service officer when the old patch was switched over to the current patch we have representing the "Thin Blue Line". Anyone in employed/retired in Law Enforcement, or even a citizen who understood the "Thin Blue Line" in our patch would give positive criticism regarding the patch. I personally think a majority of our village and nation as a entirety still love the Police for what we do. When Law Enforcement was under extreme criticism over the spring/summer of 2020 I couldn't even count how many people who would approach me just saying "Thank You".

I understand there a select few that believe the "Thin Blue Line" is attached to certain hate groups but that just is not true. The "Thin Blue Line" is more than being just co-workers, it is being part of a family. Police Departments around the country are at a crucial time in Law Enforcement where they need their communities support now more than ever. The Thin Blue Line is for all those who have passed on and we as Law Enforcement will always hold the line. The line of Law, Order, and Family. The next paragraph is quoted by President Theodore Roosevelt and is used quite a bit in law enforcement.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Sincerely,

Ryan Cannon

Jarosz, Doreen

From: Richardson, Rachel
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 12:41 AM
To: VMO
Subject: Patch

Hello,

I have never considered the thin blue line flag to represent anything other than support of law enforcement and fallen officers. It is upsetting to me that people want to associate this flag and symbol with hate instead of the true intentions behind it. It seems as though many flags and symbols have alternate representations because of incidents out of our control. Many people associate even the American flag too with negative intentions because of the groups that held it as they protested. It is upsetting to me to think our symbol could be so misunderstood and poorly associated. I would never associate this flag with disrespecting people of color. I would hate to lose our patches and further lose the true positive meaning behind the blue line flag.

Sincerely,

Rachel Richardson

Jarosz, Doreen

From:
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 11:04 PM
To: VMO
Subject: Police Patch

Mr. Cassady,

Thank you for taking the time to gather opinions from members of the PD regarding the police patch. A symbol, such as the blue line, can be adopted by any group of people, and can be used to symbolize anything. As I'm sure you already know, the thin blue line is a symbol first adopted by law enforcement long ago to symbolize service to citizens and prevention of chaos, while also honoring fallen officers across the nation. These fallen officers have made the ultimate sacrifice, something the very few people who oppose this patch will likely never be faced with. This symbol has symbolized this for the 40+ years my family has been in law enforcement, and was around long before that. The idea that the thin blue line symbol has been seen with white supremacist groups, while technically true, is largely overstated and exaggerated. The fact that the thin blue line symbol has been sometimes observed at events attended by white supremacist groups, does not make it a symbol of hate, nor does it make it a symbol of white supremacism.

Removing/altering the MPPD patch would set a dangerous precedent, as it would indicate a small portion of people can control the decisions regarding the institution that is the police and ultimately the Village of Mount Prospect. If their complaints are able to alter the uniform of the police, where would the line be drawn where enough is enough? If a small portion of people take issue with how police position their gear on their uniform, or what gear they carry, or what cars we drive, or how the cars are outfitted, would this be something this small group of people would be able to change? A small group of people's complaints should not be allowed to affect any of the previously mentioned things, and altering/removing the MPPD patch would be a step in that direction.

Law enforcement as an institution has been censored and has been without a voice for the last several years at least, and currently the outlook for the immediate future is not good pertaining to the issue. The police are told to be unbiased, professional, and refrain from having political opinions that are publicly aired, which they largely do. However, morale within law enforcement is at possibly an all-time low, and people are leaving the profession at a record pace, as they no longer wish to be scapegoats and political pawns. Removing/altering the MPPD patch would significantly cripple the morale within the PD, possibly beyond repair for the foreseeable future, likely resulting in a decline in work performance.

Again, I thank you for taking the time to read the opinions of so many people. It is my hope that the MPPD and Village of Mount Prospect will remember that the unhappy minority, while often the loudest, is just that, a minority. While this unhappy minority is simply participating in the current fad of painting things associated with law enforcement in a negative light, and regurgitating what they hear on the news, this patch has much deeper meaning to many LEO's across the nation, especially myself, who's academy mate and fiend died in the line of duty 4 years ago serving his community, including people who were anti-law enforcement. Thank you again for your time.

Jarosz, Doreen

From:
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 11:24 PM
To: VMO
Subject: MPPD Patch

I think the blue line represents exactly what you described but I also think the message that we are conveying to our residents is a message that we are united as a department in our convictions to provide the best protection and service for them. That blue line tells them we are always there for them no matter what and they could always count on us. I think removing it caters to a small group of individuals and would send the wrong message to the majority of our residents that we can't stand up against bullies.

Mount Prospect Police
112 E Northwest Highway
Mt. Prospect, IL. 60056
847-818-5244

Jarosz, Doreen

From:
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 9:29 PM
To: VMO
Subject: The Patch

Dear Mr. Cassidy, As someone who has been on the frontlines of all the protests this year and watching the current lack of support for law enforcement first hand, The lack of support from this state after the passing of HB 3653, I personally would like to see the Village do the right thing and tell these people "NO". Unfortunately this year this country has continually put the self-serving interests of the loud few over the quiet many. Please do the right thing for your officers.
– Rich

Jarosz, Doreen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 8:17 PM
To: VMO
Subject: Blue line patch

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you to express my thoughts on our blue line patch and the symbolism I believe it has to our department. I think in a time where us as police officers have so much opposition against us and what we do, our thin blue line patch has more meaning than ever before. The thin blue line is what separates the good from the evil and is something that so many officers have given their life for in the line of duty. The thin blue line is what allows all of our residents in Mount Prospect to go to bed peacefully at night, in homes that are not secured with metal bars, barb wire, high walls, and broken glass like homes in other areas of the world. The thin blue line is what allows our residents to go about their day without knowing the extent of how dangerous and cruel humans can be. The thin blue line separates all of the bad that happens in this world from the large majority, and holds strong so others can be at ease. Taking away the one symbol that officers have adhered to, in order to please the people who have never had to hold the line themselves, would truly show a lack of support for all of the men and women who go to work everyday and put their life on the line, protecting even those who go against us, and expect nothing in return. The thin blue line always has, and always will, mean the line that separates good from evil. Anyone who looks at that symbol and tries to misconstrue the message that follows with it, are the reason this thin blue line stands strong. We will not falter and we will not break. Please support us and keep our message strong, while we support everyone else.

Mike Goorsky

Jarosz, Doreen

From: Jarosz, Doreen
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 6:07 PM
To: VMO
Cc: Eterno, Mike
Subject: Police Patch

I like the patch because I designed it in Photoshop with another officer here – but I didn't vote for it when it went to a Department-wide vote because I didn't like it. I don't like the patch because I feel it is 1) cliché, and 2) divisive, despite its innocence. I know what was going through my head when I created this patch, so I know there's not symbols of hate in it. But this job is hard enough, and we're fortunate to have the little support we do from the great people of this community. The mob wanting us to change our patch is a minority representation of our citizens, but they're the loudest so they will get the attention. It's cool nowadays to dump on the police, and their concerns will be amplified and bring us undue attention that distracts from our great work.

This is the third time this issue has gained attention, and it's not worth dragging our PD and Village through the continued strife of defending a symbol that more commonly represents the insurrection we saw on January 6th than it does fallen officers. Lets change it and be done with it. We can go back to the old patch, which a lot of people were sad to see go, or we can design a new one that still honors fallen officers using symbols that are more clearly related to fallen officers (such as the National Law Enforcement Memorial logo). I think the Blue Line is a line in the sand, that separates "us" and "them," and we could do without it while still honoring those who have fallen. We are constantly getting compliments from other PD's on our patch, and the Indianola, Iowa PD just changed their patch to ours – except they took out the blue strip and kept it grayscale. That's an option for us too.

I would only ask that if we do have a new patch, we again allow input from the members since we wear it every day – it would hurt to have it outsourced to some company. There were plenty of other designs available from the last time too, so there's a lot to work with in designing a new one.

Lastly, if we change patches AGAIN, it will make it look like we have no stability at this PD. Constant change doesn't instill confidence from the public or officers here and at other agencies. It would be quickest to go back to our old one.

Thank you for the opportunity to send this.

Mount Prospect Police Department
911 E. Kensington Road
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
847-818-5250 Office
847-404-1612 Cell

Police Staff Responses

From: Garris, Joseph >
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Cassady, Michael <MCassady@mountprospect.org>
Subject: Mount Prospect Police patch

Mr. Cassady,

You asked for opinions on the controversy concerning the use of the thin blue line on our police patch. My understanding is that some people believe that this symbol has been hijacked or co-opted by white supremacy groups. This is referenced as "fact" due to the presence of the thin blue line flag at some gatherings. Of the many great tenants of our democracy a few are freedom and fairness. Even those whom we do not agree with have the freedom to present symbols that we hold sacred in a manner in which they were not intended. We cannot control who uses these symbols. While it is stated by some that the Thin Blue Line flag was displayed during rallies, this flag is not one that is either prominent nor carried as a standard bearer of their misguided cause. This leads to the second tenant I reference, fairness. Is it fair to align this flag, which so many in the law enforcement community hold sacred with the actions of a few. This by definition is prejudicial. We are holding all accountable for the actions of a small number of people to whom we owe no allegiance nor honor with our acceptance.

The oath that we swear is not to this symbol. Each of us in law enforcement swear an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States, State of Illinois and the ordinances of the Village of Mount Prospect. We do our best to abide by our oath.

This symbol, The Thin Blue Line, is one of brother and sisterhood. A symbol that binds all in law enforcement who swear this oath to a common bond. The symbol illustrates the line which protects people of all races, creed, religion, sexual orientation and all people of different persuasions in this country. We support and recognize the sacrifice of those that have given all for the preservation of order. WE serve and protect because that is what is at our core. This symbol, The Thin Blue Line is portrayed as divisive and labeled racist. Nothing could be further from the truth. This symbol crosses all barriers. There is great irony in the fact that when this symbol is attacked that there is no mention of the law enforcement officers for which this symbol characterizes. We do not separate which officers we support by race, creed or religion. The support is for all members of our honorable profession. On the all too often occasion of the loss of one of our fellow officers, never do we ask, "What was the race of the officer"? We simply say our brother or sister OFFICER. The law enforcement community is one of the most inclusive groups in existence. We share a common title and goal to protect the community. We steadfastly stand ready to honor those who went before us and defend all from chaos. This is our line in the sand. This is the line that stands ready to protect the freedoms and rights of all members of society from disorder. This is what the blue line symbolizes.

The Mount Prospect Police Department seeks to recruit officers from all segments of society. We strive to become more diverse. We may not be at a level of true representation of the community we protect but we move closer to that achievement as a core value.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for reaching out to us for our input.