

From: [Lynelle Wilcox](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Julie Hoy](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Paul Tigan](#); [Mai Vang](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Shane Matthews](#); [Dr. Irvin M Brown](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment 010726 agenda items 3a, 3b.
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:54:53 PM

January 7, 2026

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

My name is Lynelle Wilcox and I live in Ward 1.

Support of agenda item 3.a. - I am writing in support of agenda item 3.a. for City Council to develop and adopt clear guidelines for consideration of criminal history in consideration of appointments to the Community Police Review Board and Civil Service Commission.

Similar to developing and adopting guidelines about accepting fiscal donations from community members, policies or guidelines enable transparency, consistency, and a smoother process for making decisions on these topics. I hope the City Council approves Councilor Nishioka's motion.

Agenda item 3.b that reconsiders the reappointment of Kyle Hedquist to the Community Police Review Board and appointment to the Civil Service Commission.

I served on the CPRB for 2 separate terms, starting in 2015, I believe. We had no authority. When a citizen makes a complaint, the complaint goes the police Internal Affairs department for resolution. If the citizen is not happy with the results of that process, then the complaint is shared with the CPRB for us to review, and then make a recommendation. During my two terms, we had only one situation to review, and the citizen changed his mind, so we had no reviews at all during my two terms.

I appreciated that we had ride-alongs and quarterly trainings so that even when there were no cases to review, we were able to learn about how the police operate and why. Those ride alongs and trainings were so valuable for building relationships, knowledge, connections, and understanding.

I was very impressed with how receptive people were in both directions - I changed some of my own opinions about police, and when I sometimes shared my perspectives during ride-alongs and meetings, some officers conveyed gratitude to have that perspective to consider in the future. To me, having a diverse CPRB membership enables that learning, understanding, and broader perspective to bloom in directions that can be a benefit to all, and we NEED lived experience as part of that.

I don't know Mr. Hedquist, but I do know someone who has benefitted from his knowledge and help personally. Of course nothing can undo Nikki thrasher's family's loss as a result of the horror he did.

Yet I also believe that rehabilitation is possible for some people, and Mr. Hedquist seems to be living proof of that. Josh Lair, Matt Maceira, and others are also living proof that some people can and do change and completely transform their lives. Josh and Matt are sought-after advocates who serve on some committees and connect with many people including our Mayor, Marion County Commissioners, and our Police Department because of how they've transformed their lives, and how their lived experience puts them in a unique and credible position to share perspectives that reflect their lived experience, so that we're better able to help and to influence others.

Prison can be a punitive consequence of someone's actions and also allow for rehabilitation to be possible and recognized when someone transforms their life. What more could we ask of someone who has done something horrific? Punitive consequences and rehabilitation are not inherently mutually exclusive.

I can't speak in regard to Mr. Hedquist serving on the Civil Service Commission, since I am not familiar with the scope and authority of that Commission. Yet in regards to the CPRB, no individual CPRB member can affect the Police Department or any officers, and no member has any input or influence in Police Department personnel whatsoever. The CPRB's scope is very limited - review cases if/when a citizen is not satisfied with the Police Department's Internal Affairs decision. Even in those cases, the CPRB as a group would consider the case, and make a recommendation as a whole, for the Police Chief and City Manager to consider, with no authority or personnel input whatsoever.

It seems like Mr. Hedquist has served on the CPRB in a professional way, and I hope that his lived experience might be a valuable perspective and aspect of diversity for the CPRB. The CPRB has no authority, so the risk of his perspective unjustly influencing or harming others is not realistic.

He has served 28 years of his sentence, and has helped many people. He has served on the CPRB professional and with no negative incidents. He volunteers to help others in the community. He's helped past convicts to become productive members of society and has helped some families to navigate the logistics of having a loved one in prison.

I hope we can consider the reality that some people can and do rehabilitate themselves into productive members of society, and I hope we value that in roles that benefit from people's lived experiences, especially when their roles have no ability to influence people or processes negatively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox

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