



January 11, 2022

To the Dayton Community:

All Dayton residents should feel that they are treated with dignity and respect, and I know that the incident between Clifford Owensby and Dayton Police fell short of that standard. It fell below my expectations as well.

In reviewing the incident, the Professional Standards Bureau recommended new policy and training for Dayton Police in interacting with people with disabilities. Chief Afzal has also requested a review of current policies and training with a focus on how Dayton Police can do a better job of engaging with citizens with mobility limitations.

In addition to these changes, the City Commission has been working for over 18 months to address systemic issues that may create a lack of trust between community and the police. The vast majority of the recommendations – including a new de-escalation policy and training, the creation of an independent accountability auditor, and the creation of a non-police responder for non-violent calls - are already completed or in progress.

We can do better, and I am committed to continuing that work in Dayton and working to strengthen the community-police relationship. I remain optimistic that we are on the path to creating the right conditions to build a stronger community relationship with Dayton Police. This relationship is critical for our city, and is one that I and my colleagues are committed to continue to address.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.  
Mayor of Dayton

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