



South Lyon Police Department
219 Whipple St
South Lyon, MI 48178
ATTN: Chief Doug Baaki

February 16, 2023

Chief Baaki,

On behalf of the South Lyon Area Democratic Club, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the widely publicized incidents of police brutality in the news, most recently, the horrific killing of Tyre Nichols. I have no doubt that your team shares our concerns.

We don't know how we – as an organization – can better help our community, our state, etc. with these issues, but we've been watching assorted commentaries online, and we realized our best resource for information is you. We are interested in learning from you, what the South Lyon Police Department is doing to make sure that our officers are fully trained to ensure all residents in, and visitors to, our City are treated fairly, and that police use only the lowest level of force necessary when responding to situations.

Our group is also concerned with our City's reputation in this area for not being welcoming to people of color, whether that is a fair assessment or not. While this isn't the fault of the police department, we believe that items like the flag hanging inside the police department, while likely placed to show support for law enforcement officers, could be seen as a signifying opposition to the racial justice movement. As you know, this flag has been co-opted by extremists with hateful ideology and having it in the lobby could impede efforts to build trust as it is a symbol that holds a very different meaning to many community members.

We would like to invite you to one of our meetings to discuss these issues with our members; it would be so helpful to see the world from your eyes and start a dialogue around anything we can do to help. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month but we have a speaker already for our March meeting. Please let us know if you would be willing to meet with us on April 18 at 6:00 pm. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Casey Copp, Chairperson
On behalf of the South Lyon Area Democratic Club
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