Mayor Victor Funderburk

Windham Town Hall  
979 Main St.  
Willimantic, CT 06226

The Honorable Mayor Victor Funderburk,

The recent death of George Floyd has genuinely concerned me, particularly with regard to unacceptable police conduct. As a resident of Willimantic, I share your concern for the safety and wellbeing of all our citizens. We acknowledge and thank you for the steps you have taken toward police reform and accountability, and more must be done.

Excessive force and racial bias must stop now. In Willimantic alone, there have been two officer involved deaths from 2013 – 2019. While this number may be lower than other cities, I do believe this number is still as troubling to you as it is to me. Excessive force and racial bias in *all* police departments must stop NOW, before another person is injured or killed.

I respectfully request that you work with Willimantic Police Chief Roberto Rosado to support the reforms that have been proposed by the CT Police Accountability & Transparency Task Force and Governor Lamont’s Executive order, on a local level. While these proposed reforms are a solid beginning for transparency, they fall short of the **8 Can’t Wait** ([www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org)) standards.

The WillimanticPolice Department needs to adopt *all*of the **8 Can’t Wait** guidelines. When in place, the data proves that **8 Can’t Wait** policies lead to a reduction in officer involved deaths and an increase in public trust. Across the country, larger cities are able to view their city’s or town’s score card at [www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org). As of [date], Connecticut has no data in this database, which is disappointing, as Connecticut citizens are unable to see where we stand, what progress has been made and what improvements are needed. The executive order recently signed by Governor Lamont does address banning chokeholds and strangle holds and requires officers to intervene, but that is only a beginning.

I want to see all **8 Can’t Wait** reforms adopted and practiced in Willimantic and across the state.

1. Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds

2. Require De-Escalation

3. Require Warning Before Shooting

4. Requires Exhausting All Alternatives Before Shooting

5. Duty to Intervene

6. Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

7. Require Use of Force Continuum

8. Require Comprehensive Reporting

No one wants to see one more person in our city needlessly injured or killed by police officers, and I know you agree. I call on you to produce a public, transparent, and comprehensive plan of action to implement the **8 Can’t Wait** policies by August 31, 2020. Please inform me of your progress on or before this date.

Respectfully,

Your Fellow Citizen [Your Name]