

## Public Comment #1

Received Monday, July 27, 2020 at 8:20 a.m.

Brendan Murphy  
Lindenhurst IL  
representing myself

Topic racial justice in Lake County

I have long been an advocate for racial justice, but that has always been more theoretical than real. It has been this way mostly because I've lived in quiet suburban areas such as Lake County.

Lake County, while a great place to live, is also a member of a larger community of suburbs and cities in Illinois and the country. As such we have a duty to think proactively about our roles and responsibilities in that larger community.

I've lived here for 6 years now. During that time I have had the opportunity to meet many people who work or are involved in our various local government agencies. I have met and talked with a few police officers. In all of my interactions I have found most of the citizens and servants of the Lake County area to be positive, polite, and helpful.

So to be clear, I love living here and I feel we are doing a great job. However, we cannot be complacent. There are many problems in the world and I'm sure a few find homes here in Lake County. And so as leaders in the county we should make proactive moves to ensure that we are ready to face the problems that will most likely arise in our future. Many cities and police departments across the country are reeling at this time because they refuse to acknowledge that there is such a thing as systematic racism. This systematic racism affects all of our public institutions. It affects our assumptions and our long held beliefs. It colors our thinking and actions. It directs resources and community involvement. and it does all of this before we even start thinking.

This does not make us bad or evil, it just makes us human. That is until we are informed of our learned biases. When a person, or a group, informs us that we are doing wrong and we ignore them we start down that slippery slope from we are doing the best we can to well that's the way it was always done.

It is true, some people complain because they like to complain and they will never be satisfied. That does not give us carte blanche to dismiss all complaints. We must review each on its own merits. We must objectively think about our own biases and view them from another's perspective. then we must find consensus on the best path for all of our citizens.

With that in mind I have a few questions I would like to ask. (I cannot ask in person at meetings because I usually have commitments during public meeting times).

1. Can we change Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day?
  1. Columbus was not an American, never came to the United States, enslaved, raped, and disfigured many people. He is not a person I think our children should aspire to be.
2. Can we review where we invest our money?
  1. Where and how we invest our money should reflect our values.  
<http://howtodivest.org>
3. Have we reviewed our use of force protocols and trained our police in racial justice. Even if we haven't had any incidents we must not wait until after something happens to act.
4. Do all of our police officers wear body cams and are they required to be functional and on when on duty?
5. Do we have a policy on "no knock" warrants and are they disallowed?
6. What accountability measures do we have in place for our civil servants, especially police?
7. Have we reevaluated our funding of social service programs to take some of the load of the police department responsibilities so that they can concentrate on their primary purpose of serving and protecting the community.
8. What are we doing to encourage diversity not only in our government, but in our residents?

Even as I write this I am nagged by the possibility that I am just jumping on a progressive bandwagon of social and racial justice reform. Be that as it may, that does not mean asking tough questions of our elected leaders is not warranted.

Thank you for your time,

Brendan Murphy

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### Public Comment #2

Received Monday, July 27, 2020 at 9:10 a.m.

Name: Travis J. Haley

Representing: Myself

Topic: Ethics

Good morning Board Members,

During a review of the results of a recent FOIA response, I have learned that an ethics complaint was submitted to the Board against Board Member, Terry Wilke 16th District, dated March 9, 2020, almost 5 whole months ago.

Section II, Subsection B, Paragraph 2 lays out the rules and timing for notification of the complainant and the ethics committee for complaints received. "Within three (3) business days of receiving the complaint or inquiry the complainant will be provided with

a notification that a complaint has been received. In addition, the board member accused of an alleged violation shall be notified that a complaint has been filed against them and provided a copy of the complaint. The Ethics & Oversight Committee members will be notified that a complaint has been received and that a summary will be prepared and presented to the committee in Executive Session at a future meeting. The name of potential violator shall remain anonymous until the initial review is complete and presented to the Committee in Executive Session.

I remind you, this complaint was filed almost 5 months ago. I have spoken with some members of the Ethics Committee, who have indicated that they have not heard anything about this complaint from months ago.

The complaint specifically alleges a serious charge of theft by Board Member Wilke. I and other taxpayers of Lake County are very interested in hearing the outcome of this complaint, when the Ethics Committee will be informed, when the committee will meet to address the complaint, and what the final determination of the Committee will be. We are also very interested to see if this will be simply swept under the rug, as it appears to be the case so far.

Board Member Wilke personally collected almost \$1,000 in mileage reimbursement from the County for driving a vehicle that was owned by Avon Township. And while he paid it back after 14 months, it was done so only after having been called out by the Trustees (Michele Bowman and Steven Ray Vaughn) of the Township he is Supervisor of, and is reflected in the minutes of that Township meeting.

You brag about transparency and ethics reforms... It's time to start proving it with action. And put people before politics.

Thank you,

**Travis J. Haley**